Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-92-059
Thursday
26 March 1992

Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-92-059 *26 March 1992*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

ARMS CONTROL & DISARMAMENT

Aftermath of Nuclear Station Accident Reported 1
IAEA Downgrades Incident *[TASS]* 1
Shutdown Reactor's Third in 1992 *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 26 Mar]* 1
Cause of Accident Detailed *[IZVESTIYA 26 Mar]* 1
Safety Control Group Removed *[TASS]* 2
International Community Concerned With Safety 2
Norway Criticizes Russia *[TASS]* 2
Germany Sets Up Monitoring Team *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 25 Mar]* 2
Shutdown of 'USSR' Reactors Urged 2
Russia Calls For Cooperation *[TASS]* 3
More on Ukraine's Plans for Weapons Removal 3
Kravchuk's Office Explains Stand *[Moscow Radio]* 3
57 Percent of Arms Removed *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 26 Mar]* 3
Ukrainian, Russian Nuclear 'Differences' Viewed *[Moscow International]* 4
Russia Denies Sale of Submarines to Iran *[TASS]* 4
Missile Fuel Leaks Will Spell 'Catastrophe' *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 25 Mar]* 4
U.S. Postponement of Plutonium Deal Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 24 Mar]* 7
U.S. Stance on Arms Proliferation Questioned *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 24 Mar]* 8
Commentary on U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative *[Moscow International]* 8

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

'Foreign Nuclear Submarine' Sighted Near Russia *[Berlin ADN]* 10
'Peculiarities' Noted *[TASS]* 10
U.S. Post Cold War Strategy Reported *[TASS]* 10
Syrian Foreign Minister Tours CIS Countries *[IZVESTIYA 26 Mar]* 10
Japanese Delegation Studies Baltic Economics *[BALTFAX]* 10
CSCE Role in Solving Ethnic Conflicts Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 25 Mar]* 11
Yakovlev on Government Leaders' Prospects *[TASS]* 11

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

Commonwealth

Congress of CIS Germans To Discuss Emigration *[IZVESTIYA 21 Mar]* 12
Insists on Autonomy in Volga Region *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 24 Mar]* 12
Germans Now Look To Emigrate *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 24 Mar]* 12
Parliaments Meet To Discuss CIS Assembly *[Alma-Ata Radio]* 13
New 'Trotskiyite' Party To Hold Conference *[TASS]* 13
Agricultural Developments for 11-23 Mar *[Moscow Radio, etc.]* 13

Military

Air Force Commander Deynikin Heads for Ukraine *[Moscow TV]* 14
106th Division Situation 'Tense' *[Moscow TV]* 15
Two CIS Military Aircraft Crash 24 Mar *[BALTFAX]* 15
Commander of 14th Army Comments on Dnestr *[TASS]* 15
CIS Commander Appeals to Black Sea Personnel *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 25 Mar]* 16
High Command Examines Transcaucasian Withdrawal *[POSTFACTUM]* 16
Region Faces Troop Shortfall *[POSTFACTUM]* 17

Officer Reports Fading Interest in Service *[INTERFAX]* 17
Baykonur Servicemen Want Single Strategic Force *[POSTFACTUM]* 17

Baltics

Threat of Dumped War Gases in Baltic Denied *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 18 Mar]* 18

Media

ITAR-TASS Among Founders of New Paper *[IZVESTIYA 23 Mar]* 18
TASS Carries Press Review for 26 Mar 19

RUSSIA

International Affairs

Decree on Transcaucasus Forces Transfer Noted *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 25 Mar]* 21
More on CSCE Meeting Held in Helsinki *[IZVESTIYA 25 Mar]* 21
Kozyrev Comments on Results *[Radio Rossii]* 22
Departs for Moscow *[TASS]* 22
'Open Skies' Provisions, Problems Noted *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 24 Mar]* 22
Kozyrev Says ROK To Unfreeze Other Credits *[IZVESTIYA 23 Mar]* 23
Kozyrev's Japan, PRC Visits Assessed *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 24 Mar]* 23
Leaders for Baltic Negotiations Appointed *[BATFAX]* 24
Khasbulatov Meets EC Official Andriessen *[TASS]* 25
Adriessen on Assistance *[TASS]* 25
Khasbulatov, Japanese Delegation Meet *[Radio Rossii]* 25
'Pragmatic Interests' Rule Sino-Russian Ties *[TASS]* 25
View of U.S. 'Potential Ally' Dismissed *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 24 Mar]* 27
Purposes of Russian-Kazakh Contacts Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 25 Mar]* 28
Brezhnev Dacha Leased To Iraqi-Backed Company *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 24 Mar]* 29

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin, Tatarstan's Shaymiyev Start Talks *[TASS]* 29
Yeltsin Meeting With Party Leaders Assessed *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 25 Mar]* 29
Rutskoy Outlines Private Land Ownership Plans *[TASS]* 29
Gaydar on Economy, Military Expenditures *[Russian TV]* 30
Economic Outlook: 'Do Not Panic' *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 25 Mar]* 32
Nechayev To Delay Energy Price Liberalization *[INTERFAX]* 34
Khlystun Comments on Agriculture Allocations *[Moscow TV]* 34
Unemployment Expected To Reach 17 Million *[TASS]* 36
Poltoranin on Conservatives, Constitution Issues *[Moscow Radio]* 36
Addresses Tatarstan, Media's Future *[Russian TV]* 37
Khasbulatov's 'Economic Irresponsibility' Eyed *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 25 Mar]* 37
Stepankov Asks Rutskoy, Popov To Resign Posts *[TASS]* 38
Procurator To Question Gorbachev on CPSU *[Moscow Radio]* 38
No 'Restrictive' Measures Taken *[Moscow Radio]* 38
Intelligence Services Agree To Cooperate *[TASS]* 39
'Increased CIA Activity' Seen *[INTERFAX]* 39
Intelligence Recruitment Plans To Change *[IZVESTIYA 19 Mar]* 39
Primakov Seeks 'Clever Guys' *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 19 Mar]* 40
Traitors Sent To Reactivated 'Perm-35' *[INTERFAX]* 40
Parliamentary Factions Urge Yeltsin To Resign *[INTERFAX]* 41
'Democratic Russia' Calls For Yeltsin Support *[INTERFAX]* 41
Bloc Urges CPSU Officials Barred From Office *[TASS]* 41
Profile of Yeltsin Adviser Starovoytova *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 21 Mar]* 41
Tatar Referendum Observers Allege Violations *[Russian TV]* 43
Passage of Kaliningrad Resolution Delayed *[INTERFAX]* 43
Lack of Help for Chernobyl Victims Criticized *[Russian TV]* 43

Ministry, Oblast Appointments Reported *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 12 Mar]* 44
PRAVDA To Reappear Thrice Weekly *[SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA 26 Mar]* 44
Weekly Newspaper Issue 'Could Be the Last' *[Moscow TV]* 44
RIA 'Novosti' Property Reassigned to State *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 25 Mar]* 44
Privatizing Press Distribution Talks Held *[IZVESTIYA 25 Mar]* 45
Publications Registration Hinges on Resolution *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 25 Mar]* 45
Poll Shows Yeltsin Supported Despite Hardships *[INTERFAX]* 46
Only 38 Percent Can Afford 'Essential' Foods *[Moscow TV]* 46
Sociologist Predicts 'Social Explosions' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 24 Mar]* 46
Poll Shows Areas in Need of Financial Support *[INTERFAX]* 47
Ideas for Securing 1992 Harvest Expressed *[INTERFAX]* 47

Supreme Soviet

Draft Constitution, President's Powers Debated *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 25 Mar]* 47
Parliament Urged To 'Rescind' Liberalization *[Russian TV]* 48
Interparliamentary Assembly To Be Discussed *[TASS]* 48
Khasbulatov Speaks to Religious Leaders *[TASS]* 48
Federal Treaty Could Avert 'Disintegration' *[TASS]* 49
Gaydar Sees No Risk of Hyper-Inflation *[POSTFACTUM]* 49
Reports Jan-Feb Budget Surplus *[Moscow Radio]* 49
Voronin on Solving Economic Problems *[POSTFACTUM]* 50
Fedorov Says Drafts 'Counter' Legal Reform *[POSTFACTUM]* 50
Decree on One-Time Welfare Payments Approved *[Radio Rossii]* 50

Regional Affairs

Chechen President Dudayev: 'I'm Strong Enough' *[MOSCOW NEWS FAX DIGEST 24 Mar]* 51
Opposition to Dudayev Government Forms Bloc *[Russian TV]* 52
Beno Says Resignation Claims 'Disinformation' *[Radio Rossii]* 52
Regional 'Negative' Attitude to Center Cited *[POSTFACTUM]* 53
Tatarstan, Bashkortostan Draft Treaty *[INTERFAX]* 54
Consultative Council Discusses Sovereignty *[TASS]* 54
Moscow Plans To Attract Foreign Activity *[INTERFAX]* 54
Moscow Seeks Profits Through Diversification *[Russian TV]* 55
Optics Plant Faces Conversion *[Russian TV]* 55
Cossack Border Troop Formed in Maritime Kray *[Russian TV]* 55
Government Aide Meets Usinsk Oil Workers *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 23 Mar]* 56
Irkutsk Region Declared Bankrupt *[TASS]* 56

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Kravchuk Issues Decree Recalling Servicemen *[TASS]* 57
Kravchuk Arrives in India for 5-Day Visit *[TASS]* 57
'Special' Moldovan Border Zone Implemented *[TASS]* 57
Reports on Withdrawal From CIS Denied *[IZVESTIYA 25 Mar]* 57
Supreme Soviet Chairman Views Break Up of CIS *[Kiev International]* 58
Plyushch, Foreign Diplomats Discuss Investments *[TASS]* 58
Ministry Says Russia's Position 'Unconstructive' *[INTERFAX]* 59
Lugansk Cossacks Take Allegiance Oath to Russia *[INTERFAX]* 59

National Affairs

Ukraine Discusses Plan To Abandon Rubles *[NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA 25 Mar]* 59
Economic Policy Detailed *[IZVESTIYA 26 Mar]* 59
Seen as Break With Russia, CIS *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 25 Mar]* 60
Deputy Interviewed on Session *[Kiev International]* 60
Minimal Consumer Budget Set; Groups To Get Aid *[Kiev International]* 61
Second Round of Crimean Negotiations Begins *[POSTFACTUM]* 61

Participants Detailed *[Kiev International]* 62
Deported Peoples of Crimea Foundation Formed *[INTERFAX]* 62
Crimean Independence Referendum Gains Support *[INTERFAX]* 62
President's Representatives in Oblasts Appointed *[URYADOVYY KURYER Mar]* 62
Rukh Protests Appointments *[Kiev International]* 63

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Foreign Minister's U.S. Talks Discussed *[IZVESTIYA 21 Mar]* 64
Supreme Soviet First Vice Chairman Elected *[TASS]* 64
Supreme Soviet Adopts Law on Land Ownership *[TASS]* 64
Economic Agreement Signed With Vietnam *[Moscow International]* 65
New Coupons 'Very Similar To Real Money' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 20 Mar]* 65
To Have Limited Application *[IZVESTIYA 23 Mar]* 65
Circulating Coupons 'Invalid' *[POSTFACTUM]* 65
Three Private Banks Nearing Bankruptcy *[INTERFAX]* 65
Humanitarian Aid Reportedly Stolen *[TASS]* 65

Moldova

Russian Supreme Soviet Appeal Rejected *[Moscow Radio]* 66
Parliament Statement Criticizes Russian Stance *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* 66
Interior Minister Antoci Briefs Parliament *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* 66
Fighting Continues in Dnestr Region *[TASS]* 67
Defense Minister Orders CIS Arms Turned Over *[TASS]* 67
Casualties Reported in Transdnestrian Skirmishes *[Bucharest ROMPRES]* 67
Police Troops Defend Positions Near Dubossary *[Bucharest Radio]* 68
Army Commander on Continuing Dnestr Conflict *[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 25 Mar]* 68
Correspondent Reports on Transdnestrian Situation *[Bucharest Radio]* 68
Dnestr 'President' Orders Partial Mobilization *[Radio Rossii]* 69

CENTRAL ASIA

Tajikistan

Demonstrators Demand Dushanbe Mayor's Release *[INTERFAX]* 70
New Mayor Appointed *[Dushanbe Radio]* 70
New Republican Party To 'Unite' Society *[TASS]* 70
Officials Discuss Food Supply Problems *[Dushanbe Radio]* 70

CAUCASUS

Armenia

President Declares Economic State of Emergency *[Radio Rossii]* 71
Situation Detailed *[IZVESTIYA 25 Mar]* 71
Economy Staff Established *[Yerevan Radio]* 71
Iranian Official on Solution to Conflict *[INTERFAX]* 72
Countries Criticized for Opposition to Mediation *[Tehran Radio]* 72
Border Could Become 'Region of Active Combat' *[IZVESTIYA 24 Mar]* 72
Civilians, Soldiers Clash Over Withdrawal *[Yerevan Radio]* 72
State Security Chief Comments on Directorate *[HAYASTAN 5 Mar]* 73

Azerbaijan

Nagorno-Karabakh Rejected as Site for Talks *[Russian TV]* 74
Mkrtchyan on Negotiations *[TASS]* 74
Iranian Official Describes Peace Process *[Tehran IRNA]* 74

Parliament Adopts Measures To End Conflict *[Moscow TV]* 75
Minister Says 7th Army Supporting Armenians *[Moscow Radio]* 75
Mamedov on Solutions to Nagorno-Karabakh 'War' *[Vienna DER STANDARD 26 Mar]* 75
Problem 'Can Be Resolved' *[Baku Radio]* 76
More Cease-Fire Violations Reported 25 Mar *[Radio Rossii]* 76
Russian TV Report Denied *[Baku Radio]* 77
Parliament Sets Date for Presidential Election *[INTERFAX]* 77

Georgia

Government, Gamsakhurdia Supporters Talk *[Tbilisi Radio]* 78
Gamsakhurdia Backers Disrupt Writers' Congress *[Tbilisi Radio]* 78
Political Situation in Poti Called 'Stable' *[Tbilisi Radio]* 78
Transcaucasus Military on Control of Troops *[Moscow Radio]* 78
State Council To Tighten Security on Railroad *[INTERFAX]* 78
Shevardnadze Criticizes Gamsakhurdia's Policies *[Radio Rossii]* 79

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Ruutel, Shevardnadze Confer on Telephone *[Tallinn Radio]* 80
Premier Says Economic Crisis Deepening *[BALTFAX]* 80
Jaan Manitski Proposed as New Foreign Minister *[BALTFAX]* 80
Congress Discusses Assembly Law, Immigrants *[Tallinn Radio]* 80
Government Makes New Appointments *[Tallinn Radio]* 81
Russians Demand Guarantee of Ethnic Rights *[Tallinn Radio]* 81
Bank Tries To Control Ruble Through Restrictions *[Tallinn Radio]* 82
Flour, Bread Prices To Rise 300 Percent *[Tallinn Radio]* 82
Sugar To Become Available on Ration Cards *[Tallinn Radio]* 82

Latvia

Gorbunovs Gives Views on Citizenship *[POSTFACTUM]* 82
Delegation To Meet With NATO Leadership *[BALTFAX]* 83
Protocol Agreed With Russia on Reciprocal Payments *[Riga Radio]* 83
Republic Not To Receive Cash From Russia *[BALTFAX]* 83
Weapons Consignment From Unnamed State Arrives *[IZVESTIYA 24 Mar]* 83
Taiwan Offers $10 Million Free of Charge *[Moscow Radio]* 83

Lithuania

Belarus Leader To Talk With Landsbergis *[Moscow Radio]* 84
Belarus Claims Territory Around Vilnius *[Vilnius Radio]* 84
Landsbergis Wants Resolution Reconsidered *[BALTFAX]* 84
Deputy Foreign Minister Released From Post *[Vilnius Radio]* 84
Landsbergis Participates in BBC Phone-In *[IZVESTIYA 24 Mar]* 84
Leaders Address Agricultural Conference *[Vilnius Radio]* 85
Officials Cited on Troops Withdrawal Talks *[Vilnius Radio]* 85
Vagnorious Asks Yeltsin To Help With Medicines *[Vilnius International]* 87
Russia To Keep Supplying Nuclear Fuel for Plant *[Vilnius Radio]* 87
Referendum Threatens 'Further Political Turmoil' *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 21 Mar]* 87
Direct Rule in Vilnius, Salcininkai Prolonged *[Vilnius Radio]* 87
Accusations of Human Rights Abuses Investigated *[BALTFAX]* 88

Aftermath of Nuclear Station Accident Reported

IAEA Downgrades Incident

LD2503120892 Moscow TASS in English 1138 GMT 25 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Kozlov]

[Text] Vienna March 25 TASS—The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) ruled that the Tuesday [24 March] incident at the Leningradskaya nuclear power plant should be estimated as a point 2 event according to the INES [International Nuclear Event Scale] scale, the agency said in a statement circulated here on Wednesday. The incident was originally qualified as point 3 event.

The decision was made after a detailed analysis of the information on the radioactive situation on the plant and around it provided by Russian authorities. The lowering of the degree of seriousness means no considerable radioactive leaks into the atmosphere took place and the radioactive indices did not exceed the norm, the statement said.

The data on air contamination received by the IAEA also prove it was a point 2 event. Only the leak of iodine inconsiderably exceeds the norms, according to the document.

The IAEA reiterated its intention to estimate the level of security of the Chernobyl-type reactors which are installed also at the Leningradskaya plant.

Shutdown Reactor's Third in 1992

PM2603123792 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 26 Mar 92 p 1

[A. Molokov report: "Accident at Nuclear Power Station: Predictions Come True"]

[Text] The automatic fail-safe procedure came into operation at 0237 hours 24 March 1992 at the No. 3 power unit of the Leningrad AES [nuclear electric power station], which was operating at nominal capacity. The reason for this was damage to one of the reactor compartment's 1,600 technological tubes.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told by the Russian Ministry for Atomic Energy Directorate for Information and Public Relations that this was a "designed-in [proyektnyy] accident," that is, an incident envisaged in the station's design. The discharge of radioactivity into the air in the form of inert gases and iodine via the AES' cleaning filters does not exceed sanitary norms for these installations.

Let us hope that that is how everything stands.

This is the third shutdown of the nuclear power station's reactor since the start of the year. The first occurred 11 January and the second 6 February.

Our newspaper said 12 February that accidents were predicted at the AES. Vladimir Pleskach, who was mentioned at the time in the report "Alarm Predicted," has tried on many occasions of late to study the situation directly within the AES collective. The Commission for Radiation Monitoring, with which Pleskach works, managed to persuade St. Petersburg Vice Mayor V. Shcherbakov of the need to carry out a spot check of operators and repair personnel using Pleskach's biorhythm method. However, despite Shcherbakov's request Vladimir Sergeyevich [Pleskach] was not allowed into the Leningrad AES.

We met Pleskach once again 24 March. He thinks that this accident at the AES was caused by the "human" factor—the fact that the maintenance personnel's psychological state does not accord with the nature of the work that they are doing.

"You may think that this is simply my idea," Pleskach said. "But I can say to confirm this on the basis of a selective biorhythm analysis that the psychological state of a considerable proportion of the station's personnel was unstable at the time of the accident situation. It is a very great pity that we could not conduct a spot check of the station's personnel. But the development of events at nuclear power stations, not only at the Leningrad AES, incidentally, compels us to step up our activity."

Cause of Accident Detailed

PM2603091792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Unattributed roundup: "Leningrad AES: Situation Normalized, But Questions Remain"]

[Excerpt] IZVESTIYA has already reported the accident situation in the No. 3 power unit at the Leningrad nuclear electric power station [AES] at 0237 hours during the night of 24 March. The Russian State Committee for the Supervision of Safe Working Practices in the Atomic Power Industry Press Bureau explained that the reason for the accident was that the hermetic seal on one of the reactor tubes designed for the production of steam broke.

The radioactive products discharged were mainly kept inside the reactor building. The discharge of radioactivity into the atmosphere totaled roughly 3,000 curies, which is above the permissible norm. There were no casualties. By morning 25 March the radiation situation on and outside the AES site had been fully normalized. The nuclear reactor is still being cooled.

The radioactive discharge presents no threat to the health of city and oblast inhabitants. That is the belief of Viktor Orlov, president of Russia's nuclear society, whom RIA asked for explanations. The Russian civil defense staff holds the same opinion.

According to RIA's information, at 0237 hours a a pipeline began to leak in the reactor in the No. 3 power

unit at the AES. Pressure in the power unit's housing rose immediately. The alarm was triggered. To avert an explosion that might have occurred due to the drastic increase in steam pressure, it was decided to let off steam into the atmosphere via a ventilation duct.

INTERFAX was told by the Leningrad AES that during Tuesday afternoon the nuclear reactor in the station's No. 3 power unit was cooled from 270 to 70-80 degrees. Repair work can be started once the temperature in the reactor has dropped to 40 degrees and once the nuclear fuel containers have been partially unloaded. Specialists estimate that preparations for repair work may take up to 10 days. [passage omitted]

Safety Control Group Removed

LD2503141392 Moscow TASS in English 1340 GMT 25 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyubov Dunayeva and Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow March 25 TASS—The safety control emergency group was removed from Sosnovyy Bor at 09.00 hours Moscow time on Wednesay [25 March] after an incident with a nuclear reactor there, Viktor Vladimirov, deputy head of the Russian State Committee on Civil Defence and Emergencies, told reporters on Wednesday.

The group arrived to the site of the incident at 06.30 hours on Tuesday, four hours after the alarm went off. After all measurements were taken it was decided that the evacuation of the population was not necessary, he added.

The Committee has already worked out a programme of restructuring the civil defence system, its chairman Sergey Shoygu added. A special academy is to be created to train highly-skilled personnel. Employees of civil defence units will be engaged by contracts, he said.

27 thousand specialists are now on the staff of the Committee which main task is to fight emergencies in peacetime, Shoygu said, adding the emergecies happen quite often. 600 of them were registered in Russia in 1991, without taking into account fires and transport accidents. 16 thousand people were wounded and 1,100 died. The damage totalled over one billion roubles.

International Community Concerned With Safety

Norway Criticizes Russia

LD2503152792 Moscow TASS in English 1329 GMT 25 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Loskutov]

[Text] Oslo March 25 TASS—Norway officially expressed its dissatisfaction over the existing Russian rules of reporting nuclear accidents and is going to raise the question at the upcoming talks in Moscow, Foreign Ministry spokesman Thorbjorn Noreland told the Norwegian Telegraph Bureau on Wednesday [25 March]. A delegation from the Norwegian Ministry for Environment is expected to visit Moscow in two weeks.

Norway was officially informed by Russian authorities about the incident at the Leningradskaya nuclear power plant ten hours after it happened. The news first came from the press, the spokesman added.

Norway wants a better system of information and would like to eliminate all red tape and improve the agreement with Russia, which was signed in 1986 after the Chernobyl disaster, according to the spokesman.

Germany Sets Up Monitoring Team

PM2603120692 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Mar 92 First Edition p 1

[ITAR-TASS report under the "Russia and the World" rubric: "Commission of Experts Set Up"]

[Text] Bonn—A special commission of experts has been set up in Germany in view of the incident which occurred last night at the Leningrad AES [nuclear electric power station] No. 3 Power Unit. A relevant order has been issued by Klaus Toepfer, minister for the environment, nature protection, and nuclear reactor safety. The experts' task is to organize the measurement of levels of radioactivity in Germany.

For the purpose of obtaining objective information on what happened the minister has instructed that contact be established with the relevant Russian, Finnish, and Swedish agencies and the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] leadership in Vienna.

Shutdown of 'USSR' Reactors Urged

PM2603105392 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 25 Mar 92 p 1

[K. Belyaninov report: "By the Way"]

[Text] More than 25 nuclear reactors built in East European countries with USSR participation must be shut down without delay, a representative of the international ecological organization Greenpeace declared at the International Atomic Energy Agency conference in Vienna. According to assessments by the organization's specialists, if the reactors in the stations at Kozloduy (Bulgaria), Bohunice (Czecho-Slovakia), and Novovoronezh and on the Kola Peninsula continue to work for just five more years, then accidents similar to Chernobyl are almost inevitable. Commenting on the incident at the Leningrad Nuclear Power Station, Greenpeace expert John Willis remarked that the occurrence has confirmed yet again how dangerous it is to operate high-output pressure-tube reactors, which have already shown their worth at Chernobyl.

Russia Calls For Cooperation

LD2503133292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0605 GMT 25 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Maslov]

[Text] United Nations, 25 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—The situation in nuclear power engineering from the viewpoint of its safety necessitates close attention by the international community as well as united efforts to solve problems on a specific, businesslike basis, rather than on an impulse. This was declared at a news conference at the UN headquarters on Tuesday [24 March] by members of the delegation from the Russian Federation who are taking part in a session of a preparatory committee of the conference on environment and development, which is due to take place in Rio de Janeiro this summer.

Mikhail Kokeyev, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry Directorate of International Scientific and Technical Cooperation, noted that all nuclear power stations could be shut down, but this would lead to a deep economic crisis. The session of the preparatory committee has shown that most countries have already decided on the level of representation in Rio de Janeiro. It would only be expedient for Russia and other members of the CIS to follow the relevant UN recommendation. It is important for the new independent states that have become members of the United Nations to fully participate in the preparatory commission and in the conference itself.

Vladimir Kazakov, expert on international affairs and external economic ties of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, noted that at present Western countries are studying the question of lifting restrictions on the transfer of modern technology to the the former USSR republics and that it is of prime importance to use this technology in order to ensure a reliable functioning of control systems in nuclear power engineering. It is necessary to pay close attention to the reconstruction of a number of power stations, but in general the problem of closing down nuclear power stations should be decided in close cooperation with the world community.

V. Kazakov said in a conversation with the ITAR-TASS correspondent that the time has come to stop enthusing about global concepts and to concentrate on solving local problems on Baykal, the Aral Sea, and other regions. Central authorities are unable to control the processes which are taking place in the provinces, and only through public efforts and actions coordinated with the international community will it be possible to radically change the ecological situation in the country for the better.

More on Ukraine's Plans for Weapons Removal

Kravchuk's Office Explains Stand

LD2603120192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1800 GMT 14 Mar 92

[Text] An explanation has been given by the Ukrainian president's press service via ITAR-TASS concerning the position of the head of state on the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from Ukrainian territory. Ukraine is not only not relinquishing its principled approach to the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from its territory, with the aim of dismantling and destroying them within previously announced timetables—tactical nuclear weapons by 1 July 1992, strategic nuclear weapons by the end of 1994—but also wants to ensure implementation of the agreements to the fullest.

Explaining Leonid Kravchuk's statement at a news conference in Kiev on 12 March, the press service noted that the president expressed doubts about whether the withdrawn strategic nuclear weapons are being destroyed and concern that this process is being carried out with virtually no monitoring. Leonid Kravchuk spoke in favor of a temporary halt in its withdrawal, while stressing Ukraine's intention to be a nuclear-free, nonaligned state.

57 Percent of Arms Removed

PM2503214192 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 26 Mar 92 p 1

[K. Belyaninov report: "Forty-Three Percent of Tactical Weapons Remain in Ukraine"]

[Text] While President Leonid Kravchuk did confirm last week the deadline for the removal of tactical nuclear weapons from Ukrainian territory, he has not thus far authorized military trains [eshelony] to leave the republic.

"If the removal of weapons is not resumed by the end of March, Ukraine will be in breach of the terms of the agreement: There will simply not be enough trains to remove the warheads to Russia by 1 July," according to Lieutenant General S. Zelentsov, deputy chief of a main directorate of the CIS Joint Armed Forces.

The CIS Joint Armed Forces High Command [Glavkomat] confirmed that 57 percent of nuclear weapons have already been removed to Russia. 1,420 strategic and 2,390 tactical warheads remain on the territory of the republic.

At the Kiev meeting of heads of the CIS, Leonid Kravchuk did countermand the previous decision, but he set another condition: The weapons should be destroyed under verification by representatives of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine itself.

"That demand was accepted, although it contains nothing new: Even before not a single, solitary warhead could be removed from a base in Ukraine except by decision of the Council of Presidents of those four states," said Gen. Zelentsov. "But no one has ever said that all the weapons being removed from Ukraine will be destroyed. Under the Russian-U.S. treaty on the reduction of tactical nuclear arms, we are to reduce around one-half the Navy's armaments, as many antiaircraft armaments again, and around one-third of the Ground Forces' armaments. Old weapons systems, those whose

guaranteed service life is close to critical, are first in line for destruction. Therefore, it may happen that only 10 percent of the "Ukrainian" warheads will be destroyed against 90 percent of the Russian ones. Moreover, weapons cannot be destroyed within just two or three months for purely technical reasons."

Ukrainian, Russian Nuclear 'Differences' Viewed

LD2503181392 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0810 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Viktor Yenikeyev commentary]

[Text] Leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States meeting in the Ukrainian capital Kiev last Friday [20 March] failed to resolve all of the defense issues on the summit agenda largely because of differences between Russia and Ukraine. Unsurprisingly, the question of control over the former Soviet Union's nuclear stockpile dominated Monday's telephone conversation between Presidents Yeltsin and Bush. Commentary by Viktor Yenikeyev:

The commander in chief of the Commonwealth forces, Air Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov told a correspondent for the Army daily KRASNAYA ZVEZDA that the dispute between Ukraine and Russia over the future of nuclear weapons was over, and he added that Kiev had reaffirmed its plan for the transfer of tactical weapons to Russia and that work was now in progress to prepare a paper providing both for their transfer and on-spot checks of operation to eliminate them.

Significantly, the Ukrainian defense minister, General Konstantin Morozov, also speaking on Monday and much in the same key, indicated the absence of any serious rift between Kiev and Moscow on the defense matters. He spoke of minor disagreements on separate issues which should cause no worries, giving reassurances that all of the nuclear weapons deployed in Ukraine were under protection. It is to be hoped high-ranking army officials know what they are talking about.

Speaking at the end of the Kiev summit the Russian president, Mr. Yeltsin, said he found the Ukrainian position to be positive and that Russia and Ukraine were almost unanimous on defense matters. But Ukrainian leader, Mr. Kravchuk, promptly stepped in saying it must have been a joke because Ukraine refrained from discussing military issues.

But all told, even after the summit, the Ukrainian leadership has had to allay Western fears over Mr. Kravchuk's stunning move to suspend the transfer of tactical nuclear weapons to Russia by July as agreed before. Kazakhstan's decision to take charge of nuclear weapons in its territory has also made a few eyebrows raise in the West.

Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Kravchuk are far from being chums. Nor do other CIS leaders have any experience in making compromise at the negotiating table, particularly on sensitive issues. But there should be no doubt that CIS countries are peace minded. Both Ukraine and Kazakhstan have repeatedly spoken of wanting to be nuclear free, stressing the resolve to help toward a disarmament process in Europe and worldwide. One main reason is that they have no other option. For its own part, Russia has also reaffirmed commitment to international arms control agreements, both conventional and nuclear, and Mr. Yeltsin's latest proposals appear to be more far reaching than those of Mr. Bush.

Difficulties are inevitable and many of the problems caused by the break up of the Soviet Union and the emergence of the Commonwealth of Independent States can be explained because of the sheer size of the country involved. Compromise is struck in the end, albeit with difficulty. It is perhaps for this reason that Mr. Bush, calling Chancellor Kohl of Germany soon after the Kiev summit, has hastened to assure him that the CIS countries, would resolve differences on military matters in an amicable way.

Russia Denies Sale of Submarines to Iran

LD2403144492 Moscow TASS in English 1409 GMT 24 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow March 24 TASS—"Russia did not sell three submarines capable of carrying nuclear arms to Iran," a representative of the CIS armed forces' press center told ITAR-TASS today, commenting on recent mass media reports with reference to "well-informed Palestinian sources".

The reports claimed the Iranian Navy has acquired three submarines capable of carrying nuclear arms, which have been allegedly sold to Iran by Russia. They also claimed the submarines were brought to Iran by Russian crews, who will train local sailors there.

"This information does not correspond to the reality," stressed the representative, referring to the data of the CIS Navy Command and the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Missile Fuel Leaks Will Spell 'Catastrophe'

MK2503120092 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Mar 92 pp 1, 2

[Pavel Felgengauer article under the rubric "Disarmament": "Former USSR's Missiles: Fuel Is More Dangerous Than Warheads. Thousands of Tonnes of Poisonous 'Heptyl' Missile Fuel May Escape as a Result of Russian-Ukrainian Confrontation"]

[Text] All U.S. ballistic missiles, both ground- and sea-launched, are "filled" with a solid missile fuel—a highly energetic fuel polymer (faintly resembling powder). However, most Soviet strategic missiles use a liquid fuel—heptyl (nonsymmetrical dimethylhydrazine).

This fuel has tremendous potential energy. Heptyl is more efficient than kerosene, which is used in space rockets. It self-ignites when combined with an oxidant (nitric acid), is cheaper than solid missile fuel, and can be stored under nitrogen under pressure in the fuel tanks of a launch-ready missile for up to 20 years (the guaranteed storage lifetime is 10 years).

Fuel that has become unusable as a result of protracted storage is drained, dispatched to the plant, and cleansed via distillation of the accumulated undesirable impurities (metal from the fuel tank walls and water). After purification the heptyl is returned to the Strategic Rocket Forces (SRF) for reuse.

Deployment of Soviet solid-fueled mobile intercontinental missiles began in the eighties. One of the new systems, the R-22 (SS-24 in the American designation), was developed as a rail-mobile system, but only 33 missiles were deployed on flatcars and 56 were placed in the silos of the SRF's Pervomayskaya Division in Ukraine, replacing liquid-fueled R-18's. Thus the first solid-fueled silo-based missiles appeared in the USSR.

Overall Soviet liquid-fueled strategic missiles are not (at present) inferior to American solid-fueled delivery vehicles in terms of 24-hour readiness to deliver a "retaliatory" strike, and they are superior to their foreign counterparts in terms of warhead throwweight.

But there is a flip side to this advantage. Heptyl is a highly toxic neuroparalytic, carcinogenic, and asphyxiating substance. Its maximum permissible concentration in air is 0.00001 milligrams per cubic meter (10 grams per cubic kilometer). The maximum permissible concentration in water is 0.02 milligrams per liter (20 grams per cubic kilometer).

Heptyl is similar to combat toxins in its properties, but in many respects it is substantially worse and more dangerous. Upon contact with oxygen in the air heptyl oxidizes, forming a large number of chemical compounds even more toxic than the original substance. Heptyl is readily soluble in water. Solutions are six orders of magnitude less toxic than heptyl in gaseous form, but they can penetrate deep into the soil, thereby creating a long-term seat of contamination (including for water supply sources). Small, sublethal doses of heptyl possess pronounced carcinogenic properties.

Dangerous accidents involving heptyl have occurred already. For instance, on the night of 1 February 1988 an accident occurred in Yaroslavl, 300 meters from the bridge across the Volga: A railroad tank car containing heptyl tipped over and several hundred kilograms of the substance poured out onto the ground (just a small proportion of the amount in the tank car). Everything was more or less okay on this occasion: The substance did not get into the Volga and did not ignite (it is lucky it was winter). Nor was the population of the city evacuated (in order to avoid creating panic). A zone with a radius of 500 meters was cordoned off. A school and a kindergarten were inside the zone, and the entrance of the famous tire plant was precisely 500 meters away. But they decided not to halt production. Gas masks were handed out, but few people took them, and residents were evacuated from nearby homes, although, according to eyewitnesses, many people stayed at home and merely closed the windows. They did not know exactly what had been spilled. They did not believe there was a serious threat. No one tried to make them change their minds. Officially it was said that a "toxic substance" had been spilled, but our wise population knew it was missile fuel, though it did not know what kind. The spilled heptyl was collected (12 people who took part in eliminating the accident were hospitalized), and the contaminated soil was removed (as after radioactive contamination) and carted off for burial.

Heptyl is now no longer produced in the country, but there is more than enough already in existence. Practically all the available heptyl is in the fuel tanks of strategic missiles, and there are no reserve containers in the country into which it could be drained if the mass dismantling of strategic delivery vehicles begins in implementation of the START treaty and of the Bush-Gorbachev-Yeltsin peace initiatives. Moreover, specialists claim that in principle no safe technique for destroying heptyl has been developed.

Until now heptyl has not been destroyed—the task was simply never set. If obsolete missiles were removed from service, the fuel was drained, distilled, and poured into new missiles, and the missiles themselves were removed from the launch silos and dispatched for "neutralization" to special arsenals, of which there are three in the country (each in a different republic). There the missiles are treated with compressed steam in special units in order to remove the several hundred kilograms of heptyl remaining in the tanks and pipes. The processing of a single "item" results in the formation of several tonnes of poisonous effluent, which is then burned off in special units, which requires a great surplus of solar oil (500-700 tonnes per "item"). Clearly, if we were to attempt to use this method to make safe even half the existing heptyl, it would require several tens of millions of tonnes of solar oil, which the country is in any case short of. As a result of this even now missiles removed from service spend months on spur tracks at the arsenals awaiting their turn for "neutralization."

However, under the old "administrative-edict" system the problem of heptyl would eventually have been solved somehow. Appropriate storage facilities would have been constructed, then they would have decided what to do with it. Now that the Union has disintegrated, it is totally unclear who in fact should deal with this. After all, strategic missiles are stationed on the territory of not only Russia but also other newly independent states.

In Ukraine: the Khmelnitskaya SRF division—10 regiments of R-18's (SS-19's); the Pervomayskaya SRF division—four regiments (out of 10) have the same R-18's. Thus around 140 R-18 missiles are stationed on Ukraine's territory. In all on the territory of the former

Union there are 300 such systems; the largest base is in Russia. In all there are over 5,000 tonnes of heptyl in Ukraine. Each SRF division has three squads of drainage teams. And each division has four containers (100 cubic meters) for heptyl, one empty, for unusable fuel, and three full containers in case the Americans do not manage to destroy everything on the first day of a war and it is possible to load a few missiles into the few surviving silos, fuel them, and launch them after the main salvo. In all, there are now no more than 100 special containers for the transportation of heptyl in the CIS, so the mass drainage of fuel is basically impossible—there are not enough trained specialists, there are no containers, and so forth.

In Kazakhstan: around 100 R-20 (SS-18) "heavy" missiles, which contain twice as much heptyl as the R-18's. In total, 308 R-20's are deployed on the territory of the former Union.

For the present no one is after the missile complexes in Kazakhstan, whereas Ukraine has stated that it would like to eliminate the strategic nuclear weapons on its territory by the end of 1993. That is a noble aim, but how can it physically be achieved? What would seem to be the simplest solution—"firing" the missiles (with dummy warheads, of course) into the Pacific Ocean, where there is a missile test range in Kamchatka—threatens Ukraine's population with incalculable disasters.

Toxic exhaust gases are produced during missile launches (the products of incomplete combustion of heptyl). Moreover, the first stage falls to earth 20 km from the launch site and contaminates an area with a radius of 5 km, since it contains around 700 kg of unused heptyl in the tanks, pipes, and the motor's cooling system. So R-18 missiles have never been launched from Ukrainian territory. The only place in the CIS where single (planned) test launches have been carried out is a test site in desert terrain in Kazakhstan (Tyuratam). And the place where the first stage falls to earth would be tracked by radar, the stage would be picked up, and it would be sent off for "neutralization." It is easy to imagine the possible result of regular launches of such missiles in densely populated Ukrainian oblasts.

However, something else is also obvious: The mass launch of all Soviet liquid-fueled ballistic missiles (there are over 1,000 of them in service) during a nuclear war would inevitably have meant that a considerable part of the country would have been utterly poisoned. This point can be seen as serious indirect proof that the Soviet Union never seriously planned a first, "disarming" nuclear missile strike, despite the repeated accusations of probable enemies. For the launch of its own missiles in itself would have inflicted irreparable harm on the country. It is perfectly obvious that such a suicidal action is possible only as a retaliatory strike in "retribution," when everything has already been destroyed by American bombs and there is nothing left to feel sorry for—all that is left is to die, but to go out with a bang.

Today world nuclear war seems unlikely, but that does not make the "doomsday" missiles any less dangerous, although (according to President Yeltsin's assurances) they are no longer targeted on anywhere. On the contrary, the danger of a disaster is increasing with every passing day. The point is not only that it is unrealistic to dismantle the R-18's stationed in Ukraine by the end of 1993. That problem, although difficult, is in theory soluble. The main danger today lies elsewhere: The disintegration of the Union and the mounting economic and political friction between Ukraine and Russia have now essentially destroyed the Soviet rocket forces' formerly unified supply system.

Around 400 enterprises involved in producing "items" and components for the SRF are located on Ukraine's territory. And the "Yuzhnoye" association is the main military missile manufacturing enterprise in the country. In accordance with the system of total specialization adopted in the USSR, most of the production units are unique. Thus Ukraine produces a number of key "items," warhead casings and much else besides are assembled there. Today all enterprises of the Ukrainian military-industrial complex are "on the rocks"—you need to obtain a license and a quota in Kiev for any "export" to Russia. Moreover, the Russian leadership too has tacitly decided to achieve total autonomy in the defense sphere within two years, and even in 1992 state orders for military equipment and material and technical supplies will not (so far as possible) be placed outside Russia. Purchases of military equipment have been sharply reduced, and no one has any intention of "feeding" foreign enterprises when their own Russian ones are going hungry.

A trade and economic war in which each side is in a hurry to strike another blow is under way.

Document

Order of the Chief of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry Main Staff

No 112/22 of 12 February 1992

To the Commander of Military Unit 16461

...Products and stores situated on Ukraine's territory and in the charge of your unit should not be dispatched to other regions (pending a special order).

[Signed] Major General Zhivitsa (now Lieutenant General—P.F.), acting chief of the Ukrainian Main Staff

Military Unit 16461 is one of the main SRF supply bases on the territory of the former Union (the others are outside Ukraine). The "products list" there is largely not produced in Russia. Indeed, all the bases are rather specialized, so each SRF division is supplied from all five bases. But now supplies to Russian facilities from Ukraine have been stopped, and similarly supplies to the Pervomayskaya and Khmelnitskaya divisions from Russia have been stopped in response. As a result within the next two or three

months the schedule for the planned replacement of components and technical servicing of both the missiles themselves and of other components of the complex facilities of missile bases (refrigeration center, generator units, and so forth) will inevitably be disrupted. The general designers of the missiles will deprive their "items" of guarantees regarding reliability because the technical conditions have not been complied with. And then all we will be able to do is wait until a technical malfunction (a power outage, a breakdown in refrigeration equipment, a "sticking" relay) results in a leak of toxic fuel, fire, and explosion. Though it weighs many tonnes, the "lid" of the missile silo will be simply blown aside and a cloud of poison gas and maybe also atomized plutonium will escape and cover surrounding fields, rivers, villages, and cities.

According to my calculations, in theory a single R-18 missile can poison 3 million cubic km of air. A single R-20 missile can do twice as much damage.

The increasing breakdown of the SRF into "national" parts and the associated decline in discipline may also lead to unsanctioned launches of strategic missiles. In any case much land will inevitably be contaminated and become uninhabitable and rivers and reservoirs will be poisoned for many years to come, including in the most densely populated regions of the former Union. It is not impossible that thousands or, in the worst-case scenario, millions of people will die.

It is a matter of months rather than years. After all, nuclear power and other centralized dangerous production facilities are now in approximately the same position as the SRF. The CIS presidents, who are meeting monthly, will scarcely be able to prevent an inevitable nuclear-chemical catastrophe that will make Chernobyl look like a medium-sized and not all that serious accident.

Obviously, there were all too many dangerous secrets in the former Union, and there is no certainty that something worse than heptyl and missiles fueled with it is not still lurking on the territory of the secret archipelago of the military-industrial complex. But the people who by virtue of their official position know how dangerous the present situation is and can see the possible consequences of the inevitable accidents are unable to decide anything. Specialists educated in the Soviet school of total secrecy are trained to write memorandums to their bosses. But now that the centralized system has disintegrated and each republic has its own independent incompetent government, memorandums are useless.

There is no longer any single authority that can decide anything, however badly. At best the reports reach some sovereign boss (president) who, however much he might like to, is powerless to do anything and is incapable of reaching agreement with his many fellow presidents about anything. Each has gotten not so much a "sovereign country that is a member of the United Nations" as a fragment, meaningless by itself, of a complex (secret) machine. Only as a result of open debate, which will inevitably bring to light many carefully kept secrets that present a threat to the CIS countries and the world in general, can the necessary public pressure be created to force the independent presidents to act with at least some sense and coordination on the question of dividing up the armed forces of the former USSR.

U.S. Postponement of Plutonium Deal Viewed

PM2503160192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Mar 92 Morning Edition pp 1,4

[Vladimir Mikheyev report: "No U.S. Visa for Plutonium-238 Yet. Are There 'Secret Instructions' Prohibiting Soviet-U.S. Trade?"]

[Text] The talks which began in 1989 about shipments of plutonium-238 to the United States were unexpectedly broken off in late 1991. The deal, valued at $6 million, did not receive final approval from the U.S. Department of Energy, THE NEW YORK TIMES reported 23 March. What was the motive? In the newspaper's opinion, the administration is trying to remove the threat posed by the "Russian military-industrial complex." And the method? Leaving it with starvation rations when it comes to possible foreign-exchange income.

Yet the experts themselves admit that we are talking about a radioactive isotope which is not used for military purposes. Its counterpart—plutonium-239—is used for military nuclear applications.

Nobody in Washington is offering any official explanation as to why such a major deal did not reach its logical conclusion. Various specialists unconnected with the U.S. Administration are voicing the suspicion that, since this is not the first time that similar contracts with Russia have been blocked, there may possibly be some "secret instructions" prohibiting trade.

The IZVESTIYA Editorial Office turned for additional information to Aleksey Antonovich Grigoryev, director of the "Uranservis" firm, which is part of the "Tekhsnabeksport" joint-stock company:

"Indeed, talks on the sale of plutonium-238 to the United States have been under way for more than two years. This radioactive isotope which emits thermal neutrons is intended for an interesting NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) project—namely, the use of plutonium-238 as an electric generator during the planned Mars mission.

"Currently," A. Grigoryev continued, "as a result of the winding up of military programs, opportunities have emerged for recovering and chemically cleaning plutonium-238, which is considered to be a high-tech product. The technology used to produce it has already proved itself in Russia. Our proposal was accepted and approved at middle level at the U.S. Department of Energy. Last year we supplied a sample and, as far as I am aware, it passed the test. But then things got bogged down. Some people claim that the Americans themselves are able to obtain plutonium-238 from their reactors.

That is true. But specialists have already worked out that their costs would be an order of magnitude higher. It would be far more advantageous for them to acquire Russian plutonium. We are hoping that a deal will ultimately be struck."

...According to Assistant Secretary William Young, who deals with nuclear energy matters, the U.S. Government is still "looking at the opportunities" for concluding a contract for the delivery of plutonium-238 from Russia. W. Young did not name the authorities which had clearly shelved the deal.

There is every reason to believe that traditional American pragmatism will once again prevail over the desire to punish the "Russian military-industrial complex"—whatever it may mean. Moreover, doesn't this constitute material help in implementing conversion? Plutonium-238, which is intended for peaceful purposes, is produced at former "military" reactors thanks to legally earned U.S. dollars. The aim is entirely noble.

U.S. Stance on Arms Proliferation Questioned

PM2503155492 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 24 Mar 92 p 3

[V. Afanasyev "Rejoinder": "Nuclear Fist for Israel!"]

[Text] Due to the West's obviously deliberate concern for the future of the former Soviet Union's nuclear arsenal other aspects of the problem of atomic weapons nonproliferation in "third countries" have receded into shadow for a while. The agreement between the International Atomic Energy Agency and the DPRK on putting all nuclear installations and radioactive materials in North Korea under international control has gone without comment. Libya's statement to the effect that all its nuclear installations are henceforth open for international inspection has also gone unnoticed. Only because the United States did not want to hear this, preoccupied as it is with compiling scenarios for missile and bomb strikes on "atomic centers" in Iraq, North Korea, and Libya. It is quite possible that Washington will try to win Security Council support in this. What guarantee is there that these plans will not meet with support from the now very pliable representatives of Russia and the former USSR's other republics?

There are grounds for these fears. The position espoused by the USSR in the Security Council 29 November in voting in favor of Resolution No. 678 predetermined the bombing of Iraq, the destruction of its infrastructure, and the undermining of its economy—and all this ultimately brought about the very real genocide of the Iraqi people, which is continuing to this day.

Now Bush within the framework of his election campaign is proposing to inflict another series of repressive bombing and missile attacks on Iraq. Yet if the Washington administration is taking such zealous care to avert the spread of nuclear weapons, why is it keeping quiet about Israel's atomic weapons? The fact that Tel Aviv was ready to use these weapons against Arab countries during the 1973 war has already been mentioned several times.

So why is the whole "democratic" press zealously "exposing" Iraq, Libya, the DPRK, and lastly Iran, but keeping quiet when it comes to Israel and South Korea? The latter was until recently stuffed with U.S. nuclear weapons, which naturally the United States did not admit until it announced their withdrawal from the country.

The answer can be found in an interview that D. Ivri [name as transliterated], director of the Israeli Defense Ministry, gave KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA's correspondent: "The difference between us and the Arabs is that Israel is a democratic country. Democrats take a far more responsible approach to all matters of domestic and foreign policy." The deeds of Israeli "democracy" are well-known. They include the recent bombing of Lebanon, the annexation of the Golan Heights, and the terrorizing of the Palestinian people. The whole world has long been told that the West Bank of the Jordan and the Gaza Strip are "regained Israeli territories." And if Arab-Israeli talks on a Near East settlement become deadlocked, after June's Knesset elections the new Israeli Government may quite well announce the annexation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Commentary on U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative

LD2503124192 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Commentary by Valeriy Chebotaryev]

[Text] Nine years ago on 23 March 1983 the United States announced that the country would carry out the Strategic Defense Initiative. This commentary is by Valeriy Chebotaryev.

Initially the Strategic Defense Initiative was aimed at creating a space shield that could repulse a large scale nuclear attack. Now the program is aimed at ensuring global defense from limited strikes with the main anti-missile means to be deployed from the Earth. There were three reasons behind the change of the American position: Firstly, SDI's [Strategic Defense Initiative] great cost: Up to the present time the program has already cost over $20 billion—the sum equal to the cost of man's landing on the Moon. Secondly, the review of SDI has become necessary due to serious technical difficulties. Even the Pentagon had to admit that neither of the concepts advanced in 1983 had been developed to an advanced stage. Finally, the US position has been influenced by the end of the cold war. Not only the SDI concept changed. Its treatment by the world community, first of all by the former Soviet Union, had an impact. From the start Moscow was flatly against the program. Last January the Russian President Boris Yeltsin in his statement on the policy related to arms limitation and reduction, favoured a Russian- American joint development and use of this global Defense system. He said such a system should replace the Strategic Defense Initiative. It is easy to see, however, that the aims of the Russian initiative are close to those officially guided by the SDI initiators, that is, to

exclude the possibility of a nuclear missile attack. At the present time there is such a possibility but experts say by the year 2000 missiles may have been obtained by 15 to 20 states, including those whose policies cause concern for world security. Some countries still cherish the idea of creating their own nuclear weapons. Besides that there is still the possibility of an accidental launching of a strategic missile by any nuclear power. Does this mean, then, that besides SDI or the similar Russian program, there are no other variants to prevent a nuclear conflict? Yes or no answers are impossible to such a question. First of all it should be borne in mind that such programs would require enormous funds of which Russia has none at the moment. The United States has its own economic problems too, and has no extra money for such investment. Then take the treaty on the anti-missile defense which is an important element of control over such armaments. If cancelled or reviewed it may question the further development of the reduction in nuclear arsenals. It seems the more likely way forward would be the enhancement of the efficiency of the treaty on the non- proliferation of nuclear weapons and the toughening of control over the spreading of missile technologies and what is more important, further important steps to eliminate offensive weapons. Thus, there would be no need in the implementation of the costly and disputable SDI program.

'Foreign Nuclear Submarine' Sighted Near Russia

LD2603083892 Berlin ADN in German 0738 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow (ADN)—The CIS Navy yesterday sighted a foreign nuclear submarine practically directly in front of the entrance to the Russian maritime base of Murmansk. The Moscow news agency INTERFAX reported today, basing itself on information from the Command Staff of the naval forces, that the destroyer Gremjastschij discovered the craft six miles west of the island of Kildin in the Kola Bay of the Barents Sea. It began a chase which lasted some 40 minutes.

After the submarine left Russian territorial waters it was also sighted by aircraft of the CIS Navy's Northern Fleet.

'Peculiarities' Noted

LD2603103392 Moscow TASS in English 1017 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow, March 26 TASS—A submerged foreign submarine was detected at 09.05 hours Moscow time on March 25 at the entrance to the Gulf of Kola, in Russian territorial waters, TASS learned from the CIS Navy press centre on Thursday [26 March]. Warships of the Northern Fleet "Rastoropniy" and "Gremyaschiy" spotted the alien U-boat, no CIS submarines were present in the area at the moment, the press centre said.

The unidentified submarine remained for an hour in Russian territorial waters, which are defined by Russian legislation and their boundaries are well-known to all navigators, according to the press centre.

The warships signalled to the submarine demanding it to surface, but upon realising that it had been spotted the U-boat escaped from the Russian territorial waters at a speed of 12 knots. To get rid of the chasing ships the submarine used acoustic jamming devices. Antisubmarine forces of the Northern Fleet were surveiling it for several hours. Judging by its manoeuvres, it was a nuclear-powered submarine, a spokesman for the CIS Navy said.

Over a month ago, on February 11, a CIS "Sierra"-type submarine collided practically in the same region with the U.S. "Baton Rouge" U-boat.

Several peculiarities hint that the latest action was planned in the same headquarters as the one in February, according to the press centre.

U.S. Post Cold War Strategy Reported

LD2503172592 Moscow TASS in English 1111 GMT 24 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Matyash]

[Text] Washington, March 24 TASS—Despite the changes that have occurred across the world after the "cold war" ended, the United States must nevertheless possess a sufficient containment potential in order to oppose regional threats. This view was expressed here on Monday [23 March] by Admiral Frank Kelso, chief of the U.S. Naval Staff. Kelso said the United States, as a naval power, should be able to safeguard its vitally important interests in the Western Pacific, the Caribbean Sea, the Indian Ocean, the Persian Gulf and in the Mediterranean. According to the admiral, 200 U.S. warships are now plying these seas and oceans. Kelso holds that aircraft-carriers will continue to play the main role in U.S. naval strategy. The admiral said that the number of U.S. warships would be cut from 650 to 450 by 1995. He believes this number will be enough to maintain America's front-line presence across the world. Kelso also said that changes throughout the world would allow the United States to remove tactical nuclear weapons from warships and that this problem would be resolved shortly.

Syrian Foreign Minister Tours CIS Countries

PM2603145192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Report by Mikhail Kozhevnikov: "Syrian Minister in Tour of CIS"]

[Text] Damascus—Syria is seeking to develop cooperation in the most varied spheres with the countries belonging to the CIS. The tour of the CIS capitals by a Syrian delegation headed by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', which began Monday [23 March], is confirmation of that.

The visit's program includes visits to Tashkent, Dushanbe, Alma-Ata, Yerevan, Baku, and Kiev. It is expected that during the trip protocols will be signed on establishing diplomatic relations and exchanging diplomatic missions between Syria and respectively Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and Ukraine. Similar documents were signed earlier with Yerevan.

It has become known to me from informed sources that the Syrian side is displaying particular interest in training its national cadres and is planning in this connection to have a detailed discussion of questions connected with the training of Syrian students in the CIS countries.

Japanese Delegation Studies Baltic Economics

OW2503214692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1511 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A delegation of the Japanese Foreign Trade and Industry Ministry has visited Latvia for studying the economic situation in the republic with the aim of making investments there. Earlier this week the guests met in Riga with administrations of the plants RAF and

"Radiotehnika". The Japanese delegation plans to visit Lithuania and Estonia for meeting with business circles there.

CSCE Role in Solving Ethnic Conflicts Viewed

PM2503161592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Report by Pavel Golub: "CSCE Takes a Risk"]

[Text] Europe's most blatant problems today are the bloody conflicts in Yugoslavia, Moldova, and Nagorno-Karabakh. The death of people and the appeals from the opposing sides for aid to the European bodies cannot leave the CSCE members indifferent. It is not surprising that these conflicts have been put foremost on the agenda of the present meeting in Helsinki.

The all-European forum as conceived in the mid-seventies is seeking the broadest possible scope for the problems discussed at it without making decisions which could serve its own destruction. This should have been a representative organ for political discussions, coordinating joint decisions only on the basis of consensus, that is of universal agreement. It is not hard to guess that the resolutions adopted by this forum could be—and have been—of a very general nature.

Gradually, thanks to the success of the Belgrade, Madrid, and other meetings, the CSCE approached the present boundary, beyond which is specific participation of this forum's political structures in the solution of the continent's problems. It was for precisely this purpose that the center for the prevention of conflicts, for instance, and several other permanent CSCE organs were created but essentially they have not yet embarked on specific deeds.

The process of the admission of new members to the CSCE, which has taken place recently and is proceeding at the present meeting in Helsinki, fits as a whole into the logic of the development of the all-European process but it also threatens the capability of the CSCE. An excessively large number of participants in the conference, geared toward different, partly opposite goals and in addition the inclusion in it of representatives of the non-European region (the CIS Central Asian states have been admitted to the CSCE) are seen by some observers as a harbinger of a reduction in the effectiveness of the all-European process.

The demands for the revision of geographical borders heard increasingly frequently recently from now one participant in the forum and now another present an undoubted threat to the principles on which the CSCE members united in 1975. If in even one case these demands are satisfied, the basis for further cooperation within the framework of the Helsinki process may be destroyed.

There is no doubt that it will not be simple for the participants in the present Helsinki stage of the CSCE to find a solution to the interethnic conflicts and this setback in itself could so undermine trust in that political structure that its very existence will be in question.

Yakovlev on Government Leaders' Prospects

LD2503190292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1442 GMT 25 Mar 92

[TASS at 1517 GMT on 25 March transmits a service message killing this item]

[Text] Tokyo, 25 March (TASS)—"If President Yeltsin does not change his government in the next few days, it will be replaced at the sixth Congress of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation to be held early in April." This was the forecast made today by Aleksandr Yakovlev, former senior adviser to the USSR president. He had arrived in Japan to take part in a number of international symposia.

The present cabinet, which has had an extremely difficult role thrust upon it, has carried through the first stage of the "shock treatment" on the Russian economy, said Yakovlev, who is now vice president of the International Foundation for Socioeconomic and Politological Research (the Gorbachev Foundation). "Dissatisfaction with economic policy is growing among the masses. Trust in the cabinet has fallen to an extremely low level. The government will simply not survive the second stage of price liberalization," he stated at a press conference in the Japanese Press Club.

Appraising the situation in Russia, Yakovlev noted that a unique event is now taking part in the country. It is changing to a new structure by non-violent means. This process is painful both for Russia and for the international community, but it has laid the foundations for a new era in world civilization. The former adviser to the president of the USSR called on the West to treat the events taking place in Russia "more seriously." "I am not calling on the Western countries to give us aid, but I call for Russia to be included in international division of labor, for it to be regarded as a partner with full rights and not as a poor relation."

Speaking of the possible development of events in other countries of the CIS, Yakovlev expressed the opinion that "practically all leaders of the states of the Commonwealth will be replaced in the course of 18 months to two years, with the exception of Kazakhstan President Nazarbayev, who is pursuing a very well thought-out policy." "The majority of the present leaders in the CIS countries are former heads of the communist parties of the union republics. They have long been striving for power and received it after the putsch but they do not understand the tremendous difficulties of the population and the serious situation in their republics, and so they will be forced to leave," Yakovlev considers.

Commonwealth

Congress of CIS Germans To Discuss Emigration

PM2403121692 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Sergey Guk report: "Second Congress of Germans"]

[Text] The second congress of Germans of the former USSR has opened in Moscow. It was organized by the interstate union for the rehabilitation of this people, which was repressed during the war years.

The main issue which those present have to resolve is whether they should continue to strive for the restoration of the autonomous Volga republic or brush off the "empty promises of the old and new leadership in the Kremlin" and emigrate en masse to Germany. The congress will last three days.

Insists on Autonomy in Volga Region

PM2603093792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Mar 92 First Edition p 1

[Yegor Kozhukhov report under "We Report Details" rubric: "Delegates Spoke Out Unequivocally"]

[Text] As expected, the Second Congress of Germans of the Former USSR, held in Moscow this weekend (we have already informed readers of its start), passed off in a tense atmosphere, with stormy debates. No wonder. The question was put point-blank: Either continue the struggle to recreate German autonomy in the Volga region or, as Genrikh Arngold, leader of the congress press center, declared, "Germans will have to leave this country."

Many delegates were in a pessimistic mood. Addressing the congress, Genrikh Grout, chairman of the Interstate Council for the Rehabilitation of Germans of the Former USSR, openly voiced doubts about the possibility of the prospect of national revival for Germans in Russia. The results of the congress, however, refuted those fears. It follows from a resolution adopted by an overwhelming majority of votes that there is no alternative to autonomy in the Volga region, and the Germans not only are not renouncing their rights but also intend to toughen their demands in talks with the government. Above all, this concerns the deadline for reinstating autonomy. In conversation with ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA's correspondent Genrikh Arngold described as positive the fact that representatives of the Russian Government were present at the congress, thereby acknowledging the acuteness of the problems under discussion.

The next stage will be talks between the Germans' representatives and the government. Genrikh Arngold declared that all kinds of compromise options for resolving the problem do not constitute a way out of the situation. "Compromises are possible only on details. As for the key issues, the delegates spoke out unequivocally for the speediest recreation of autonomy within the framework of the Russian Law on the Rehabilitation of Repressed Peoples."

The congress results provoke serious thoughts. It is gratifying that the threat of a mass departure of former Soviet Germans to Germany at present remains just a threat. It is also gratifying that representatives of the Russian Government attended the congress, thereby displaying their interest in resolving the German question. What is disconcerting is something else: the refusal of the Germans themselves to seek a compromise. Any forms of strong-arm pressure are inadmissible on matters such as ethnic ones, when the fate of thousands upon thousands of people is at stake.

Germans Now Look To Emigrate

MK2503084592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Mar 92 p 3

[Anna Krayzel report under the rubric "Ethnos": "'No Hopes of National Future in Russia,' Congress of Soviet Germans Decides"]

[Text] Hopes for the restoration of a German autonomous republic in the Volga region have still not completely disappeared. But emigration to Germany has now officially become the goal of Russian Germans. This was the result when the Second Congress of the Interstate Council for the Rehabilitation of Germans of the Former USSR came to an end 22 March in Moscow's Cinema House.

The delegates demanded that the German and Russian Governments work out a program to facilitate the unimpeded emigration of all Germans wishing to do so over a period of from three to five years. The congress resolution states: "The people's hopes for a national future on Russia's territory have been completely destroyed."

Even before the congress, the Interstate Council and its strongest faction, "Rebirth," (the chairman of both is Genrikh Grout) sharply criticized President Yeltsin's decree "On Urgent Measures for the Rehabilitation of Soviet Germans," which envisages creating a German national okrug on the territory of Volgograd Oblast and a German national rayon in Saratov Oblast. Russian Germans see the proposed stage-by-stage restoration of their statehood in the Volga region as an attempt to drag out the German question. "Why must Germans move to the Volga without guarantees that they will actually ever receive autonomy?" asked one delegate.

A sign of the delegates' disappointment was the rather cold reception given to Valeriy Tishkov, new chairman of the State Committee for Nationalities, who spoke at the congress for the first time as a member of the government. This occurred even though he proposed working together with Russian Germans: The Interstate Council (which again reproached the German Government for trying, together with the Russian Federation leadership, to decide the Russian Germans' fate behind

their backs) was invited to take part in three commissions: the interstate commission to prepare a program for step-by-step restoration of a republic, the commission on the rehabilitation of repressed peoples, and the organizational commission to implement Yeltsin's decree. But Grout had already warned that the Interstate Council will block the work of the latter commission unless more acceptable ways of implementing the project in the Volga region are found. Moreover, Grout demanded the restructuring of the State Committee for Nationalities in which the Interstate Council still has no representatives.

The German invitees showed a readiness to work with Russian government representatives to solve the problems. Horst Waffenschmidt, plenipotentiary of the Federal Government on the problems of migrants, called on the delegates to carefully check the proposals from Russia, Ukraine, and other CIS states rather than begin panicky emigration. He himself expressed faith in the plans for compact German settlement in the southern Ukraine or in Altay Kray, which, in the opinion of the Interstate Council, would only serve to provide local administrations with financial injections from Germany. Where and how an autonomous republic comes about depends now on Russian Germans and their wish to migrate, Waffenschmidt said.

Grout criticized Waffenschmidt, saying how out of touch German politicians are with Russian Germans' real interests. According to Grout, in the future only a handful of people will migrate to the Volga region and the majority will simply leave.

The congress probably differs from the previous one mostly in that such problems as the preservation of German culture in Russia and help for those who either want to or are forced to remain here received almost no attention. On the contrary, the issue of whether or not it would be possible to trade apartments with servicemen returning from the former GDR excited many people.

Parliaments Meet To Discuss CIS Assembly

LD2603121292 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Groups of experts are starting to arrive in Alma-Ata to prepare for the consultative conference of CIS Supreme Soviet chairmen, set for 27 March. Work has already been started by the delegations of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan. Judging by the package of draft documents tabled for preliminary elaboration, the main issue at the conference will be the question of setting up an interparliamentary assembly of CIS member countries.

The Kazakhstan deputies see it as a sort of coordinating body intended to achieve the unified legislation of states belonging to the Commonwealth. In their view this will permit the maintaining of a single economic, financial, banking, and information area, and to emerge from the most severe crisis which has now seized virtually all aspects of public life in the former Soviet republics by joint efforts and with the least losses.

Work has not so far been started by representatives of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine and also some other republics which have their special viewpoint on the future of the CIS.

New 'Trotskiyite' Party To Hold Conference

LD2003223192 Moscow TASS in English 1339 GMT 20 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mariya Kuzmenkova]

[Text] Moscow March 20 TASS—Advocates of Trotskiy's ideas from Kiev, Minsk, Yalta and other CIS cities decided at their nationwide meeting in Moscow to create a Trotskiyite Labour Party.

The founding conference of the party will take place in June this year. Its provisional name is "Workers' Democracy".

"The main provision of the party's programme is to revive socialism on the basis of Leninism-Trotskiyism," ITAR-TASS was told by Alexey Samsonov, one of the leaders of the Committee for Workers' Democracy and International Socialism.

He also said that 25 advocates of Trotskiy's ideas are currently active in Moscow.

According to a leaflet distributed by the committee, the organisation is for "the immediate nationalisation of private joint-stock and other commercial banks, without buy-outs, for refusal to pay the debts of the current government, both domestic and external, for the introduction of a universal rationing system in the country during the transitional period."

Agricultural Developments for 11-23 Mar

LD2603032092

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports not previously reported on agricultural developments monitored from CIS sources from 11 to 23 March. Items are listed in chronological order by republic. Republics not listed indicate no fileworthy reports monitored during this period.

Kazakhstan

Currently, in southern Kazakhstan the busy sowing season is beginning. The late spring is arriving everywhere, and today, following Chimkent farmers, the seed drills are out on the farms of Dzhambul and Alma-Ata oblasts. More than 500,000 hectares are to be sown with summer crops. Farmers want to expand, wherever possible, the areas of grain crops, sugar beets, and oil seed crops. According to preliminary calculations, more than 1 million hectares of extra land will be sown. The crops gathered from these areas will help farmers resolve their

economic problems under market conditions. [Text—Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1600 GMT 23 Mar 92]

Russia

According to Nikolay Slykin, the head of the central farming directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture, a good harvest of winter crops is expected in Russia this spring, with an area of more than 22 million hectares being sown to winter crops. Slykin stressed that seed problems will be completely resolved.

The situation in public livestock breeding is critical. According to data on animal products from the Russian Federation State Statisitcal Committee, during January this year the sale of cattle and poultry fell by 31 percent compared with January of last year. The gross milk yield decreased by 19 percent, which is the result of the reduction in the number of cattle and their productivity. [Summary—Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 11 Mar 92]

The sowing of early spring crops started in the fields of the Stavropol steppes today. [Summary—Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 21 Mar 92]

In the Altay, the situation in spring sowing is somewhat different. Normally, at this time in the kray they would have no less than 80 percent of grade one or two seed, but now they only have 62 percent and a considerable proportion of it is not in condition. In Shatunovskiy rayon for instance, where bread grain area exceeds 140,000 hectares, about 30 percent of the seed is adulterated with karlyk and wild oats. It is not ruled out that the weeds will get into the soil together with grains of wheat, barley, and oats. The work in the fields has been neglected. Use of mineral fertilizer is inaccurate and vague. [passage omitted] [Excerpt—Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1600 GMT 23 Mar 92]

Will there be any bread next year? It is a question that cannot at present leave anyone unconcerned. The Russian Ministry of Agriculture has reported that 11.5 million tonnes of high quality seeds have been prepared. This quantity is sufficient for 52 million hectares. This is the area that has to be sown to grain this year. There are also the necessary seeds for resowing, should the need arise—there is a surprise. It sounds almost sensational that the quality of the seeds this year is higher than in 1991.

The winter crop area this year has been expanded by 3.6 million hectares. Autumn plowing has been carried out on an additional 8 million hectares. In a word, a good base has been prepared for the future harvest. Difficulties could arise due to a shortage of machinery—200,000 tractors will not be taking part in the sowing campaign. The Russian Government has allocated credit on advantageous terms—33 million rubles for buying machinery, fertilizer, and means to protect the crops—but it is not enough. This will only cover a third of the farmers' needs. [Text—Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 23 Mar 92]

Military

Air Force Commander Deynikin Heads for Ukraine

LD2503165992 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1500 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Interview with CIS Air Force Commander Petr Deynikin by correspondent Petr Fil; place and date not given; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] At the recent conference of the CIS countries in Kiev, the discussion was mainly concerned with military matters. There were even reports of some positive results. Well, the politicians went off home and the military continue to resolve their own problems. CIS Air Force Commander Petr Deynikin flew to Kiev today in connection with the appeal from the officers of a military transport aviation division stationed in Ukraine.

[Deynikin] The officers are proposing that military transport aviation, which is our national wealth belonging to the whole Commonwealth, should be used in accordance with a united plan and that its actions should be controlled by a body made up of interested representatives of all the states. If it is unilaterally privatized along territorial lines and if it is, perhaps, divided up according to quotas this would inevitably lead to its being eliminated. Therefore, I think that after I have flown to the spot, and held conversations with the officers corps of the formation, and relying on public opinion, I will be able to convince Kostantin Petrovich Morozov [Ukrainian defense minister] that the disagreement between us should be removed. I think that this work will be successful. Unfortunately, Ukraine's airspace has been closed to the commander of the military transport aviation for two days now.

[Petr Fil] And for you?

[Deynikin] A ban was imposed for 24 hours for us. I think that they confused a merited airman of the USSR with a Powers or a Rust [U.S. pilot and German amateur pilot who violated Soviet airspace] and I see no grounds for the Ukrainian Defense Ministry to be afraid of me on my own. I am flying unarmed. But today they gave me permission to visit two divisions of the long range aviation.

[Fil] It is 1100 Moscow time. A TU-134 aircraft with CIS Air Force Commander Petr Deynikin on board is leaving for Ukraine. Time will tell what the results of this trip will be.

We expect reportage on the results of the commander's trip in time for tonight's news bulletin.

106th Division Situation 'Tense'

LD2503232792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2115 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Report from Uzin by special correspondent P. Filya—from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] UKRINFORM reports that Deynikin, commander in chief of the CIS Air Force, has held a meeting with the officers of the strategic air force division stationed at Uzin. This is the division from which six crews flew off to Russia a little while ago. Our special correspondent has just returned from Uzin.

[Mikhail Bashkirov, commander of the 106th heavy bomber division] I request that I be released from this assembly.

[Deynikin] Mikhail Mikhaylovich, I have profound respect for you. I will be pleased to receive from you an official request to be relieved of your duties as a whole.

[Bashkirov] Comrade Commander in Chief, I have been appointed by decree of the Ukraine minister of defense and I will not submit such a request to you.

[Deynikin] I will be pleased if you will not be present at this assembly.

[Bashkirov] Thank you.

[Deynikin] You are welcome.

[Correspondent P. Filya] That was two generals talking: One of them is CIS Air Force Commander Petr Deynikin, the other is Mikhail Bashkirov, commander of the 106th heavy bomber air division, stationed in the town of Uzin near Kiev. Colonel General Deynikin arrived here today because the situation in the division, in his words, is extremely tense. This is the problem: Ukrainian Defense Minister Morozov has ordered the withdrawal from the 106th division—which is part of the strategic forces—of a regiment of Il-78 tanker aircraft and a transport squadron, without which the division as a whole cannot be considered combat-ready. Now, under Bashkirov's command, the aircraft will be put to commercial use.

Bashkirov the general and businessman has been removed from his post by order of Marshal Shaposhnikov, but he remains de facto commander of the division and is supported by the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense. The officers are divided into supporters and opponents of Bashkirov, into those who have sworn allegiance to the Ukraine and those who have not. So there is open conflict. We will try to bring you a more detailed report during Sunday's Itogi program.

Let me add that although this kind of conflict is a frequent occurrence, it does give rise to thoughts about the future of the CIS and the future of its armed forces. It took the commander of the CIS air force a whole 24 hours to persuade the Ukrainian military authorities to let him intrude into the Ukraine's airspace. (Yefanov), commander of the military's transport aircraft, was not even able to do that.

Two CIS Military Aircraft Crash 24 Mar

OW2603142892 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1330 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On March 24 night two military aircraft of the CIS Armed Forces crashed under unclear circumstances. They took off the Lielvarde military base near Riga for a training flight, the press center of the Northwestern group of forces reports.

On March 25 the body of one pilot and wreckage of one of the aircraft were found on the territory of the Saldus military ground in the Liepaja region of Latvia. The wreckage of the second aircraft has not yet been discovered. However, witnesses say it crashed over the Limbazi region of the republic.

Commander of 14th Army Comments on Dnestr

LD2103153992 Moscow TASS in English 1326 GMT 21 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fyodor Angeli]

[Text] Chisinau March 21 TASS—Major-General Yuriy Netkachev said the servicemen of the 14th Army will never fight against their own people and will not take part in any conflicts.

In an interview with the newspaper NEZAVISIMAYA MOLDOVA, the commander of the 14th Army stationed in Tiraspol said he believes the creation by individual independent republics of their own armies is of the political rather than professional nature.

He said the issue of withdrawing the 14th Army from Moldovan territory or dissolving it in near future is not on the agenda today. An accord was reached to transfer equipment, armaments and property of the Army's units stationed on the right bank of the Dnestr to the Republic.

Netkachev emphasised that the conflict in the Dnestr region can be settled only if both sides agree on a modus vivendi.

"In this moment, the authority of individual officials in the Moldovan leadership is zero on the left bank of the Dnestr," Netkachev believes. "The stubborn desire not to notice this and continue to pursue the unpopular political course is fraught with the full civil disobedience by the mass of the Dnestr region citizens."

CIS Commander Appeals to Black Sea Personnel

PM2603110092 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Mar 92 p 3

[Report by unidentified correspondent under the rubric "Direct Line": "Commander of the Navy Appeals to Black Sea Fleet Personnel To Maintain Calm and Self-Restraint"]

[Text] Moscow—As the KRASNAYA ZVEZDA editorial staff was informed at the Navy press center, Admiral of the Fleet V. Chernavin, commander of the Navy, has made an appeal to Black Sea Fleet personnel, workers, and employees. The appeal says that the situation associated with the Black Sea Fleet has recently become much more acute. Hopes pinned on the Kiev conference of the CIS countries' heads of state and government did not prove to be well-founded, and a decision on the Fleet's fate has been put off indefinitely. In the meantime, the leadership of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry has devised its own version of the Black Sea Fleet as part of the CIS Strategic Forces, to include 9 percent of the Black Sea Fleet's overall strength, 22 percent of its forces afloat, and 17 percent of its nuclear weapon delivery systems. Thus 91 percent of the Fleet's forces would be transferred to Ukraine, which spells the Black Sea Fleet's demise. Open opposition is forming to the sensible proposals of the Navy and Black Sea Fleet command, and an element of destabilization is being introduced into the multinational military collectives.

The commander of the Navy expressed certainty that the Black Sea Fleet's personnel will maintain calm and self-restraint in this complex situation, remain loyal to their oath, and do everything possible to preserve the Fleet's unity.

High Command Examines Transcaucasian Withdrawal

LD2503134992 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1042 GMT 25 Mar 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Moscow—Sources say that the high command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces is studying the possibility of withdrawing the troops of the Transcaucasian Military District from Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Military experts argue that there are plenty of reasons for it. Ever more so since the Kiev summit adopted a decision to set up special peacekeeping forces which, at a request of a CIS member state, cleared with the conflicting parties, would create conditions for a peaceful settlement of disputes and conflicts and help provide for the observation of human rights and liberties. Besides, the peacekeeping forces may not be used for hostilities. The troops currently deployed in Armenia and Azerbaijan, are in this or that manner, involved in the armed conflict between those republics—arms systems are being sold to supply military formations, separate servicemen, and, sometimes, whole groups join in the hostilities on Armenian or Azerbaijani sides. Besides, while in Transcaucasia, the armed forces units are sustaining casualties. In 1991, in the whole of Transcaucasia 127 armed attacks on military installations and servicemen resulting in 18 deaths took place. Since January 1, 112 attacks on the army units deployed in Transcaucasia took place with 16 servicemen—almost as many as for the entire last year—losing their lives. Most attacks on army units—and most casualties consequently—were reported in Azerbaijan.

It follows from a reference submitted to Russian parliament by the deputy chief of the high command of the CIS Joint Armed Forces Colonel-General Boris Pyankov that Azerbaijan is first to none, also in the number of thefts of military hardware and material—already this year 7 helicopters, 14 tanks, 36 artillery pieces and mortars, 46 RPG and AGs-17, 67 of various other types of grenade-throwers, inter alia, have been stolen. Ammunition gets stolen by car-loads: 1104 of them have been stolen since last January.

It is, evidently, all this that makes the CIS high command develop plans of withdrawing the Army units, at least, from Azerbaijan and Armenia. Certain steps in this direction have already been taken. In particular, one of the last orders of the former chief of the general staff of the CIS Joint Armed Forces Victor Samsonov was to disband by March 16 all the Army outposts on the Armenia-Azerbaijan border. In case of obstacles being placed in the way of withdrawal of military hardware, it is to be put out of commission under that order. According to the information from reliable sources, the proposal to withdraw the troops from Trans-Caucasian area has been supported by the Russian leadership. Vice-President of Russia Aleksandr Rutskoy recently met with Lieut. Colonel Valeriy Reshetnikov, commander of an anti-aircraft missile brigade and his deputy Lieut. Colonel Valentin Kovbasuyk, who had been hostages of Armenian guerillas. According to some information, during his talks with the officers, Rutskoy resolutely spoke out in support of the immediate withdrawal of the CIS troops from Trans-Caucasian area and from Moldova. According to the vice-president, Boris Yeltsin also backs up this proposal. Rutskoy maintains that the troops withdrawal should be carried out within 2-2,5 weeks and the air-cover provided for the troops removed from Transcaucasian region. All non-evacuated munition should be destroyed and servicemen families should be evacuated by transport aviation.

Colonel General Valeriy Patrikeyev, commander-in-chief of Trans-Caucasian Military District has another opinion on the subject of troops withdrawal from the area. Patrikeev says: While taking a decision on withdrawing troops from Trans-Caucasian area, one should take into account the fact that NATO powerful group of armies is still exist and its abolition is not discussed in the West. As a commander, goes on Patrikeyev, I've established a civilized-type relations with the commander of Turkey's 3rd Field Army. However, this Army's functioning has not been abolished as

well. Turkey has started to modernize its army, to build up its combat potential, purchasing state-of-the-art armaments and equipment. Thus, in case of the CIS troops withdrawal we cannot talk about a balance of forces in the region.

Patrikeyev believes that the only way out of this situation involves the transfer of the troops stationed in Trans-Caucasian area under Russia' jurisdiction and legitimization of their stay in Trans-Caucasian republics on the basis of interrepublican arrangements. According to General Patrikeyev, even in case the decision on troops withdrawal from Trans-Caucasian area is taken, the troops will fail to leave the area even within a 12-month period of time let alone a 24-hour or 30-day schedule, since some 30 thousand servicemen families stay in Trans-Caucasian region and they should find job somewhere. The commander maintains that troops withdrawal from the area under present volatile circumstances is a risky business, since no one could provide guarantees that the trains would not be derailed during evacuation. While the issue of whether the troops should remain in Trans-Caucasian area is debated, local servicemen are acting as they deem it fit. On March 17, in accordance with the decision by Trans-Caucasian Military District's commandment, all the objects, including warehouses with 4th Army's weaponry in Azerbaijan territory have been mined and danger signs installed.

Region Faces Troop Shortfall

LD2503150192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1238 GMT 25 Mar 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Tbilisi—The spring call-up into the Transcaucasian military border district troops is under the threat of being stymied. PF [POSTFACTUM] has learned that officers from the organizational-mobilization department of the Committee for the Protection of the State Border do not know how troops of the Transcaucasian Border District will be replenished after the general staff of the Commonwealth United Armed Forces decided not to send draftees from Russia into this region. Only residents of Kazakhstan and the Central Asian republics will be dispatched for military service in the part of the border troops which are stationed on the territory of these states.

Officer Reports Fading Interest in Service

OW2603131792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2030 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Colonel Gennadiy Andreyev, chief of the center for military-sociological, psychological and legal research of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, told IF [INTERFAX] that young men were gradually losing interest in contract military service. Whereas in January 1990, 67 percent of servicemen said they would like to serve on a contract basis, and in September 1991- 47 percent, in March 1992, only 30.6 percent of those polled were ready to do so. Half of the respondents said that money was the main incentive. The majority of those who expressed the wish to serve on a contract basis said that a soldier should be paid up to 1570 roubles and a sergeant—up to 1780 roubles. Two thirds of those polled would like to serve in their native republics and near their parents' place of permanent residence. The airborne troops still enjoy the greatest popularity (37 percent), while the building troops hardly interest any (5 percent).

Baykonur Servicemen Want Single Strategic Force

LD2003211192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1648 GMT 19 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Alma-Ata—Spokesmen for strategic military units in the Baykonur launching site are for retaining a single strategic force.

This information emerged from sources close to the commanders of the Baykonur launching site. Space-military units deployed in Baykonur are included in the CIS strategic deterrence forces. There are no nuclear weapons in Baykonur. Maintenance service for launching complexes and other support systems in Baykonur are carried out by programmers, specialists in electronics, mechanics and other military professionals.

As became known from the same sources, Baykonur needs the annual sum of nearly RBs [rubles] 5 billion (in 1991 prices). That estimate was made without regard to the coming price rise on energy due on April 1.

The same sources say that the government of Kazakhstan is improving relations with the Baykonur officials. According to some estimates, the maintenance of all the military structures deployed in Kazakhstan including the launching site and the Semipalatinsk testing ground will require resources worth nearly 2 annual budgets of the Kazakhstan republic. If the problem of financing the launching site is not resolved during the first quarter of the year, the situation might become more difficult. According to the space- military units' spokesmen, neither Kazakhstan no other CIS republic could carry on space research leading to launches of new manned rockets independently. It should be also remembered that the percentage of Kazakhs in the space-military units account for about 1 per cent including 36 Kazakh officers. Kazakhs make up over 50 per cent of the construction battalions personnel deployed on the Baykonur launching site.

As for the military orders, they have always been most important for the launching site. According to the spokesmen for the CIS military-space units commanders the proportion of military orders compared to civil ones used to be 70:30. Now the proportion is reverse—30:70. The customers are still the military structures of the former Soviet Union.

Baltics

Threat of Dumped War Gases in Baltic Denied

PM1803182192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Mar 92 p 3

[Report by Captain Second Rank Yu. Golovin: "Chemical Catastrophe in Baltic: Stories and Reality"]

[Text] Baltic Fleet Press Center—The decision of the anti-Hitler coalition countries to bury in the Baltic Sea bed war gases from Germany's arsenals is again the focus of attention 46 years after the event.

The mass media of Russia and the Baltic states are increasingly turning to this topic, which bears the obvious imprint of sensationalism. A number of newspapers report that hundreds of thousands of tonnes of war gases—sarin, mustard gas, phosgene, tabun, and other war gases—have been buried in the Baltic Sea. If there is a mass leakage because of the destruction of the casing of the containers, shells, and bombs, they warn, the sea will die and irreparable damage could be caused to the health of 30 million people living around the Baltic...

This information was preceded by the publication in the German newspapers FLENSBURGER TAGEBLATT and DIE WELT of interviews with Doctor O. Khennig in which he claims that during a visit to Kaliningrad he received the consent of the Baltic Fleet commander to hold joint operations in the Baltic to seek and destroy stocks of chemicals dumped during World War II in the regions of the island of Bornholm and Skagerrak Strait. It emerges from the interview that the German side will be provided with the necessary archive materials and the trawlers' joint operations may begin as early as this year. According to the information in the German newspapers, in this connection FRG Defense Minister G. Stoltenberg has already given entirely specific instructions on checking the feasibility of plans for a joint operation and the possibility of enlisting FRG Navy trawlers, which have experience of operations in the Persian Gulf.

But if we return to the minutes of the meeting in Kaliningrad, it turns out that Doctor Khennig was overhasty in organizing the operations to "save" the Baltic Sea. Admiral V. Yegorov, commander of the Baltic Fleet, has indeed confirmed that chemical ammunition is buried at sea. But, he said, "the fleet does not have precise information about its submersion."

It is clear from Admiral V. Yegorov's talk with Dr. O. Khennig that the fleet does not intend to remove the problem of the chemical ammunition on the Baltic Sea bed from the agenda, although there were no specific proposals from the commander of the Baltic Fleet. In the opinion of Captain First Rank Yu. Yefimov, chief of the Baltic Fleet chemical warfare service, it is merely necessary to view the questions which have been raised on a somewhat different plane.

The decision to submerge the war gases from Germany's depots was made by the anti-Hitler coalition countries and carried out in the 1945-1946 period under the leadership of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff. The Baltic Fleet's participation in the operation was limited to determining the sites for submersion and to navigational backup. The archives of the Baltic Fleet and the Navy do not contain documents on the organization of the burial, its precise coordinates, or the quantity of chemical ammunition submerged. It is known that war gases such as mustard gas, tabun, and phosgene were buried (at that time sarin, for one, was not yet being produced).

There is no reason to speak of the massive discharge of war gases from the casings of shells, bombs, and other containers. This process can only be of an "evolutionary" nature under the natural influence of the environment. The leakage of war gases over past decades may and even should have happened. Here we must consider that over such a large interval of time the war gases have to a considerable extent lost their toxicity and then they gradually seep into the water they are hydrolized. This can be proved indirectly but very convincingly by the studies carried out in the period from January 1983 through July 1984 by the workers of the Baltic Fleet's 28th chemical laboratory under the leadership of Captain Third Rank I. Bondarenko. Any interference in the natural process of the chemical ammunition's breakdown could cause unpredictable consequences and not prevent but on the contrary accelerate catastrophe.

Media

ITAR-TASS Among Founders of New Paper

PM2603101192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Mar Morning Edition 92 p 2

["Own Information" report: "Some Are on the Brink of Closure.. ...But ITAR-TASS Has Started Issuing a New Newspaper"]

[Text] It has a superlaconic name: 24. It will be issued every other day during the next four to six weeks. After that, the founders (apart from the news agency this means the "Sovrybflot" all-Union joint stock company and the editorial board of journalists) intend to gradually turn it into a daily publication to be circulated throughout the immense area of the CIS.

Judging by the sample copy, the newspaper will try to embrace everything—including politics and crosswords. 24 is planning to establish itself on the overcrowded newspaper market while many publications are on their last legs. But all this is because "other newspapers" are holding the news in contempt, chief editor Yuriy Zarechkin believes. 24 intends to eliminate this annoying deficiency.

As it is backed by the powerful network of correspondents in ITAR-TASS, the editorial office intends to issue

a newspaper which, in time, scarcely a family will resist the temptation of walking past.

TASS Carries Press Review for 26 Mar

LD2603110792 Moscow TASS in English 1043 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow March 26 ITAR-TASS—Today's press highlights a "concept of Ukraine's new economic programme", which in the opinion of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, has "produced a bomb-shell effect".

The new programme was set out by President Leonid Kravchuk at a closed-door meeting of the Ukrainian Parliament on March 24. The newspaper emphasises that the programme "is aimed at taking Ukraine out of the common economic space of the Commonwealth of Independent States".

Setting out "principles for Ukraine's national economic policy", KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA writes that Ukraine has never had an economic policy of its own. Previously, under conditions of "the 'single economic complex of the USSR', an economic policy was shaped on the strength of direct instructions, plans, allocations and other normatives sent from the former Union agencies".

Now that Ukraine has become an independent state, the republic's economy is still managed from the outside, this time through financial, monetary and pricing policies. Therefore, in the opinion of the compilers of the programme (Ukraine's state Duma—a non-constitutional entity headed by President Kravchuk), the time has come to work out a "new economic policy".

Commenting on Leonid Kravchuk's economic programme, A. Ulyukayev, economic adviser to the Russian Government, points out in KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA that "the consequences of the implementation of measures suggested in the document may be disastrous to Ukraine". In general, it seems, that this is either blackmail or sounding out, the adviser observes.

TRUD newspaper carries a commentary on the signing of "a general agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation, Russian Associations of Trade Unions and Associations of Entrepreneurs for 1992".

The newspaper points out that the agreement has been signed but that contradictions remain. It believes that the main contradiction is between "the agreed-upon text and practical measures taken by the Government recently". This is why the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia declined to sign the general agreement, TRUD emphasises.

In an article headlined "Autonomy, the Northern Style", Nikolay Chesnokov in ROSSIISKAYA GAZETA reflects on prospects for a transition from territorial autonomous entities to national cultural ones.

In the history of the Soviet state, there have been many attempts to decide the future of small ethnic groups of the north by granting various forms of autonomy and self-government to them, Chesnokov writes. But all those attempts "proved futile. Small ethnic groups of the north did not feel any protection of their interests, and the local authorities did not get autonomous rights".

The publicist believes that "nations that are on the verge of extinction should be rescued by other, urgent and more effective measures, primarily handing their native lands back to them for proper utilisation and protecting them from ruin and pollution."

"Autonomy, the northern style", is impracticable and prospectless. It has not prevented a degradation of northern peoples. Cultural autonomy is more realistic for small peoples", Chesnokov maintains.

Robert Minasov, parliamentary news analyst of ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, describes a keen debate at the Russian Parliament session over Russia's draft new constitution submitted by the Constitution Commission.

Minasov writes that the discussion of a procedure for the consideration of the draft Constitution hit a snag that could lead the Parliament into a deadlock. The point is that the Parliament has no right to adjust the Constitution Commission's decisions. In this case the Parliament performs only consent judgement functions. The discussion ended with the Parliament's adopting the preamble and the first section of the draft Constitution as a basis for more detailed examination.

B. Khorev, expert of the deputies' factions of the left-wing bloc in the Russian Parliament and professor at Moscow State University, sets out in SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA his view of the draft new Constitution of Russia.

He believes that "instead of the power of the working people, the draft Constitution openly proclaims a dictatorship of bourgeoisie in the form of presidential-and-parliamentary bourgeois democracy which totally rejects all the principles of Soviet power."

"This is an anti-national constitution and it is hard to imagine that it has been written by Russian people", Khorev observes.

Hasty efforts are being made to adopt this draft Constitution without its discussion by the citizens of Russia in order to seal the legislative fruits of the "August revolution", the scholar emphasises.

Vladimir Sluzhakov analyses in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA "a draft state programme for the privatisation of state and municipal enterprises of the Russian Federation for 1992", which will be brought up for the Parliament's discussion in the coming days.

Sluzhakov points out that "privatisation cannot be stopped now, a nomenklatura-dominated one either". He notes that the privatisation programme is drawing working people into the process. "A feeble attempt has been made to intervene in the nomenklatura-dominated

privatisation, although it cannot be stopped or even limited in any substantial way," the analyst observes.

"To our people Cuba has for long had a romantic halo about it," Oleg Bondarenko writes in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in an article headlined "The Island of Bad Luck". "The haze has almost dissipated now, revealing many unpalatable facts from the history of the Cuban revolution", he notes.

The author of the article believes that the Cuban revolution inherited all the "vices" of the 1917 October revolution in Russia and that therefore it has no prospects.

International Affairs

Decree on Transcaucasus Forces Transfer Noted

PM2603111392 Moscow in Russian 25 Mar 92 First Edition p

[Decree of the Russian Federation President "On the Transfer of the Transcaucasus Military District and Caspian Naval Flotilla to the Temporary Jurisdiction of the Russian Federation," dated 19 March, the Kremlin, and signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin]

[Text] In order to maintain stable command and control and safeguard the functioning of the Transcaucasus Military District and the Caspian Naval Flotilla, ensure the safety of armaments and military equipment, protect the lives, honor, and dignity of servicemen and members of their families from criminal interference, and prevent Transcaucasus Military District and Caspian Flotilla forces from becoming involved in interethnic conflicts, I rule that:

1. The Transcaucasus Military District and Caspian Naval Flotilla shall be temporarily transferred to Russian Federation jurisdiction and be subordinate to the commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces.

2. The Russian Federation Government, in conjunction with the commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, will assemble government delegations and immediately embark on talks with the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, and the Republic of Georgia on the legal status and terms of the Transcaucasus Military District and Caspian Flotilla forces' presence on the territory of the aforementioned states.

3. It is laid down that, until the legal status is determined and an agreement is concluded on joint funding, the Transcaucasus Military District and Caspian Flotilla are to be funded by the Russian Federation budget.

4. Colonel General Valeriy Anisimovich Patrikeyev is appointed Russian Federation agent for matters relating to the presence of district and flotilla forces on the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, and the Republic of Georgia.

5. The Russian Federation agent for matters relating to the presence of district and flotilla forces is to take steps to prevent any attempts to seize armaments, military hardware, or military facilities belonging to the district or flotilla and prevent forces from becoming involved in interethnic conflicts or interfering in the independent states' internal affairs.

6. The decree is effective from the moment it is signed.

[signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin
The Kremlin, Moscow, 19 March 1992, No. 260

More on CSCE Meeting Held in Helsinki

PM2503142792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Report by Irina Litvinova and Marat Zubko: "Conference on Security and Cooperation Has Begun With Discussion of War in Karabakh"]

[Text] Helsinki—In Helsinki, in the Center of Congresses on the shore of the bay where the capital is situated, the fourth meeting of representatives of the states which took part in the CSCE opened 24 March. Beginning at foreign minister level, it will turn into sessions of working groups on the four "baskets" and in early July it will be completed by the heads of state and government.

This meeting differs from previous ones in a number of important ways. First, it is not 35 states which are represented in Helsinki now but 48, whose territory extends from North America through Europe to Central Asia. A few more countries will be admitted to the ranks of the CSCE.

Second, the meeting is no longer marked by the ideological confrontation between two systems. And third, the topics of the defense of human rights and national minorities will occupy a more marked place than before during the discussions.

In the evening of Monday 23 March, talks took place between the heads of the delegations of four countries—Moldova, Russia, Romania, and Ukraine—on the situation in the Dnestr region, which continued for several hours. While we were filing this report we did not yet know the text of the document which the ministers decided to adopt, but the document and the Moldova-Dnestr region conflict itself were already being discussed on the opening day.

In the first half of the first day of work within the framework of the Helsinki meeting there was a discussion of the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh. The document prepared for discussion contains, in particular, a call for an immediate and effective cease-fire and recommendations to hold an international conference on Nagorno-Karabakh as soon as possible with a view to reaching a peaceful solution of the crisis. There is talk there of approving the intention of the chairman of the CSCE Council of Ministers to visit the region of confrontation.

The day before Russian Foreign Minister A. Kozyrev, who is taking part in the work of Helsinki-2, visited Finnish president M. Koivisto and P. Vayrynen, his Finnish counterpart in the diplomatic department.

We confirmed, A. Kozyrev stated, the desire to cooperate through the Council of Baltic Sea States. Our idea is that within the council's framework there should operate not only mechanisms for cooperation on economic and ecological problems but also mechanism for the defense of human rights and national minorities.

It is very important that we confirmed the recently signed treaty on the foundations of relations between our countries, in the sense that neither side has any territorial claims on the other. In Finland various statements are being made on this score and we had to close the border issue so that no one should have dangerous illusions.

There was also talk of cooperation between Finland and Karelia and the regions of St. Petersburg and Murmansk, that is all along the border, A. Kozyrev continued. In this connection they agreed that it is necessary to accelerate work to crate new checkpoints. The idea was also approved that a day or a day-and-a-half before the summit meeting within the framework of Helsinki-2 Russian President B. Yeltsin should come here and pay an official visit to Finland. M. Koivisto treated this idea positively.

Kozyrev Comments on Results

LD2603011892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has returned from Helsinki, where he participated in the CSCE meeting. He summarized some results of the meeting in an interview with my colleague, Sergey Pustovoy.

[Begin recording] [Kozyrev] The distinguishing feature of the meeting is that we have given a start to Helsinki-2; in other words, the summit which is to take place in the summer. I believe that we have outlined in principle the general understanding that this should not be just a ritual meeting, but one that will make a change in Helsinki from principles to a Helsinki of working mechanisms which is to work on the basis of these principles. The distinguishing feature of the second stage certainly will be in this. Anyway, we spoke in favor of this and the majority of the states have supported us because, at present, having just principles and norms of behavior is not sufficient anymore. Mechanisms are needed that will help to introduce these norms on both sides—in the East and in the West.

We gathered for a four-sided meeting of the directly adjacent countries: Romania and Ukraine, Moldova itself, and Russia, which also has a few interests, and, as I became convinced, has quite an authority. By taking into account the Kiev statement of the heads of CIS states, we also have added a substantial paragraph on human rights and of national minorities. Romania as well as other participants again have confirmed the territorial integrity of Moldova. It also has been added that Moldova is treated as an independent state, as a UN member, and a CSCE member. I believe that this is not a bad thing at all. We also confirmed the need for turning away from willful confrontation to a political search for a settlement to these issues. But, I believe that the paragraph on human rights and the protection of ethnic minorities is a substantial addition.

[Pustovoy] How do you see the prospects of the CSCE's role in resolving interethnic conflicts on the territory of Europe?

[Kozyrev] It is exactly this which is going to be the distinguishing feature of the next stage. Nobody actually is disputing the necessity of creating such a mechanism, which is named there the supreme commissar for human rights and ethnic minorities. In reality this is to be a substantial office which will be involved in this issue. This is one of the differencies between the Helsinki process which is to begin after Helsinki-2 and the one which has existed up to this time. So far there were good principles and norms on human rights, but now an instrument will be worked out to monitor the implementation of these norms. [end recording]

Departs for Moscow

LD2503143692 Moscow TASS in English 1417 GMT 25 Mar 9

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Nikolay Vukolov And Aleksandr Surikov]

[Text] Helsinki, March 25 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who attended the fourth session of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in Helsinki, met with heads of delegations from Austria, Ireland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and the United States on Wednesday [25 March].

They discussed bilateral relations, European security and the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, the Dnestr Republic and Yugoslavia.

After the meeting with heads of the Ukrainian, Kyrgyz, Armenian and Azerbaijani delegations, Kozyrev left for Moscow.

'Open Skies' Provisions, Problems Noted

PM2503105592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Mar 92 p 3

[Major M. Zheglov report: "Skies 'Opened'"]

[Text] The "Open Skies" Treaty is to be signed in Helsinki today at a meeting of CSCE foreign ministers. It will make it possible for noncombat, unarmed aircraft to fly over the territory of the member states on a reciprocal, equal basis with a view to monitoring [kontrol] military activity.

I would remind you that the talks on this problem have been under way since February 1990 and have involved the NATO countries and the states previously within the Warsaw Pact. Now the range of participants has undergone considerable changes: Instead of two German states the treaty is to be signed by a unified Germany, and Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus have for the time being

taken the Soviet Union's place. However, experts preparing the "Open Skies" Treaty do not rule out the possibility of other states' subscribing to it in the foreseeable future.

In total the treaty comprises 19 articles and 12 appendices, clearly enshrining the composition of the surveillance apparatus, quotas (numbers) for surveillance flights, questions of the processing and use of surveillance data, and so on. There is also another quite interesting factor. The "Open Skies" treaty is an extrabloc treaty, and for that reason it is quite possible that not only will aircraft belonging to NATO countries and our former Warsaw Pact allies fly over Russian territory, but also aircraft from our former republics.

It is stipulated that aircraft can fly both over the territory of one state or groups of states, which the parties to the treaty may form if they so desire. Russia and Belarus have already decided to form such a group. Permission has been given for 42 flights a year over them. The same quota has also been set for the United States. A maximum range has also been prescribed for every state depending on the size of its territory. This range is 6,500 km for Russia and Belarus (there are, moreover, no zones over Russian or Belarussian territory closed to aircraft, although they may in theory exist for reasons of flight safety). During the initial phase—two-to-three years after the treaty comes into force—only photographic and video apparatus will be fitted on the aircraft and the flights will only be carried out by day. Subsequently it is planned to fly at night, and infrared and radar instruments will be mounted on board for this purpose.

The signing of the "Open Skies" treaty does not mean that work on the treaty is over. The first trial flight by a Canadian Air Force aircraft over Hungary in 1990 showed that this measure is quite costly. As a result, in two years of talks it has not proved possible to reach total clarity on financial problems. Needless to say, such countries as the United States, the FRG, and Britain will hardly have difficulties. But as to where small countries, as well as Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus, will get the money, that is another matter.

The problem of funding "open skies" will most likely be a stumbling block during the discussion of the treaty by many countries' parliaments. Even if it does not block the treaty, this could at least substantially delay its entry into force. Therefore the people compiling the treaty and those responsible for its implementation (mainly the military men) are now trying to find a way to break a possible deadlock situation. Russia, for instance, has offered the use of its own aircraft for the flights and suggested compensating for the expenditure with the money received from leasing them. There are also other options. A definitive decision will be adopted in the course of the work of the specially created consultative commission.

Kozyrev Says ROK To Unfreeze Other Credits

PM2603100192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 1

[RIA report: "South Korea Will Unfreeze Credit to Russia"]

[Text] President No Tae-u of South Korea will issue an instruction to unfreeze the other half of the 3 billion [currency not specified] credit allocated to the USSR last year.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev announced this 19 March following the end of his visit to Seoul.

Kozyrev's Japan, PRC Visits Assessed

PM2503142192 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 24 Mar 92 p 5

[Reports by correpsondent N. Tsvetkov in Tokyo and A. Platkovskiy in Beijing: "Yes, We are Asiatics. Postscript to A. Kozyrev's Visits"]

[Text] [N. Tsvetkov report] It was not Andrey Kozyrev's first visit to Tokyo as Russian foreign minister. As I recall, he went there as a member of delegations headed by union minister Aleksandr Bessmertnykh and by Mikhail Gorbachev, USSR president and general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. It was quite recently, about a year ago. It is hard to say to what extent the ideological factor was present in his activities then and before, during his pretty successful Foreign Ministry career. Now this factor is palpably present, except in reverse.

In Tokyo the number one man in our diplomatic service made the following pronouncement: The rule of law and justice are concepts that were practically unknown to the previous—Soviet, communist—regime.

There is no question about that. The question is how does this declared adherence to the principles of the rule of law and justice tally with Russia's equally earnest adherence to all the former USSR's commitments, by definition "unjust and unlawful." Does this definition extend, for example, to the 1956 Soviet-Japanese declaration?

The minister's reply to this question, put by an IZVESTIYA colleague, was: Yes, it does extend to it. The declaration was elaborated and adopted in private, by a small group of people, without any nationwide discussion. On the other hand, it is bad because it was not implemented. The minister did not express an opinion on the content of the declaration, leaving those present in a quandary. So, from our viewpoint, it is good, despite everything? If it is not good, then why? Be that as it may, since the document exists and it was ratified by the two countries' parliaments, Russia, the minister assured us, will pledge to implement it.

"Including the point on handing over the islands of Habomai and Shikotan to Japan?" one Japanese journalist inquired.

"This question will be tackled at the talks," Andrey Vladimirovich replied evasively.

But what has been decided now? What are the actual results of the talks the ministers described as "successful and fruitful"? Judging by Japanese comment, which is meager and by no means upbeat, the delegation upheld Russian interests, giving nothing away to the Japanese. But... excuse me, Andrey Vladimirovich, bilateral relations have become less clear rather than clearer since your visit. Perhaps that is a positive result, then? The more fog there is, the more active the contacts have to be, in order to dispel it.

The gist of what minister Kozyrev wanted to convey to the Japanese, as far as the Japanese themselves perceived it, is as follows. A fierce political struggle is under way in Russia. The ruling regime is in an unstable position. Help us, that is, the regime, now and we will settle up later. Maybe with the islands. The Kremlin's attitude toward the territorial problem has changed. The difference from yesterday, as A. Kozyrev repeatedly stressed, is that Russian and Japanese diplomats now consider themselves partners on the same side as the table, rather than as opponents.

That is the summons to our new "ideological brothers." Will it reach its destination? Unlikely. One thing is clear: Unlike the well-known uncle, we, finding ourselves in a similar situation, are winning less and less respect.

Let us suppose many influential people in Japanese are impressed by our anticommunism. But Tokyo's invariably hard line vis-a-vis the Soviet Union, and now Russia, shows that beliefs can become closer, but state interests remain different, which, incidentally, brings to mind again our stated principle of the deideoligization of foreign policy.

Of course, most Japanese are sympathetic toward Russian democracy and market transformations but they can do without getting involved in our political struggle, let alone financing it in favor of a particular grouping. It is naive to expect anyone in Japan to be prepared to give really serious money to "naked anticommunism"—whether real or for show—in the way that we once gave money to support communism. The public cannot stomach it, the moneybags see no profit in it, and as for pragmatic politicians—hints of a softening of the stance on disputes is not enough for them; what they need is unequivocal promises at the very least.

[A. Platkovskiy report] The Russian foreign minister began his Far East tour in Beijing, thereby confirming the traditional priority of relations with China as far as Russia is concerned, given that the path to the Pacific Ocean and to Asia Major always went via the "China gate." This, perhaps, merely stresses the insubstantial nature of Moscow's current Chinese policy since the August putsch and the disintegration of the USSR.

By the time A. Kozyrev visited Beijing—the first visit by a foreign minister of the new Russia—the situation was such that both sides were already pretty wary of one another. This gave grounds for expecting that the talks would be rather more than a formal exchange of information on positions.

Not so, however. This is to some extent explicable. Chinese diplomacy is traditionally extremely cautious and conservative: "an unripe fruit is a bitter fruit." To all appearances, Beijing was satisfied with the task. The exchange of the instruments of ratification of the agreement on the eastern part of the Russian-Chinese border as it were symbolized such a fundamental asset of bilateral relations as the continuity of the course toward good-neighborliness.

It appears that the most delicate aspect of the conversations in Beijing was the Russian side's attempt to stake a claim on the formulation of a "new model of relations with China." Judging by A. Kozyrev's statements, its chief component is a combination of accord and differences of approach "without overdramatization and without conflicts." This construct was tried out by the Russian minister during the discussion of the question of human rights. What sounded unforced in European drawing-rooms had an entirely different context in Beijing. Here, in principle, they are already accustomed to these "bourgeois stunts" and are pretty successful at parrying attacks with the argument: China is a unique country, and its traditional values do not coincide with those of the West. The main human right, according to Chinese criteria, is the right to food, housing, and peace and quiet. A. Kozyrev would have found it very difficult had he entered into a debate on this with his Chinese partners. Aside from setting out goals, there is nothing really with which to counter this. Russia, alas, is not a country that can claim to have anything like a satisfactory human rights situation in the broad political sense. Thank goodness protocol did not envisage debate in Beijing. The sides merely set out their views on this issue. But the lesson is obvious. We look clumsy trying to follow the example of the "Western democracies" in relations with China. Moreover, it could provoke a dangerous "ideologization" of interstate relations, which was what once caused the "major row." Russian diplomacy has always had a reputation for having a deep appreciation of China's pecularities. It is this, as a rule, that has formed the foundation of the successful arrangement of good relations with the great neighbor. All this has yet to be reflected in the "new model" mentioned by A. Kozyrev.

Leaders for Baltic Negotiations Appointed

OW2503172592 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1511 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin has signed decrees appointing leaders for Russian delegations in negotiations with Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania (Sergey Zotov, Vasiliy Svirin, and Viktor Isakov, respectively) on political, military, and humanitarian relations. All three delegation leaders are professional diplomats, ambassadors at large in the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Commenting on the decrees, the deputy chairman of the defense and security committee in the Russian parliament, Aleksandr Kotenkov, said the negotiations with all three states were mainly handled by a single Russian state delegation led by Vice-Premier Sergei Shakhray. The other three delegations would act as expert groups assisting Shakray's delegation but would, at the same time, carry on independent negotiations on a permanent basis on the entire range of relations with these countries, including political and military but all interstate agreements would be signed by the main delegation.

Kotenkov described the recent demand of the Latvian, Lithuanian, and Estonian Governments that troops be withdrawn from their territory by this autumn as totally unrealistic. As for the demand of the chairman of the Lithuanian parliament, Vytautas Landsbergis, that troops be also withdrawn from Kaliningrad Region, Kotenkov qualified this as "interference in the internal affairs of the Russian Federation."

Khasbulatov Meets EC Official Andriessen

LD2503225192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1518 GMT 25 Mar 92

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 25 March (TASS)—Russia has been closely studying the experience of creating the European Community. Ruslan Khasabulatov stressed this here today at a meeting with Frans Andriessen, vice president of the Commission of the European Communities. The chairman of the Russian parliament explained that this unique experience is of great interest to the CIS member-states, especially at the present stage in forming the Commonwealth.

Ruslan Khasabulatov stressed that the Russian Federation is interested in strengthening its cooperation with the European Community, and in developing ties between the legislative and executive structures. "Russia would like to become an integral part of the world civilized community," Ruslan Khasbulatov said, having expressed his conviction that the Russian Federation will make considerable progress in this direction after adoption of the new state constitution.

Adriessen on Assistance

LD2503230192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1600 GMT 25 Mar 92

[by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Leonid Timofeyev]

[Text] Moscow, 25 March (TASS)—The European Communities support Russia's entry into the IMF. This was stated at a news conference today by Frans Andriessen, vice president of the EC's executive body, the Commission of European Communities [CEC]. He has been in Moscow to discuss with the Russian leadership the contents of a future agreement on trade and cooperation between the European Communities and Russia. The new document is due to replace the outdated agreement which had existed between the EC and the Soviet Union.

According to the CEC representative, Russia's membership of the IMF would open the way to rendering macro-economic assistance to the country. One of the issues which Frans Andriessen discussed with Russian Vice Premier Gennadiy Burbulis concerned the problem of credit to the sum of 1.5 billion European currency units granted to the CIS countries which is being blocked by the EC. The CEC vice president pointed out that a compromise is perfectly possible and experts will be seeking a mutually acceptable solution. Frans Andriessen made it clear that the "Common Market" adopts such a practice in relation to all countries which use its credits and there is no need to look for any political undertones here. This is a juridical and commercial matter, he said.

Replying to a question about the possible consequences of Ukraine introducing its own currency, Frans Andriessen stressed that no one can prohibit this, but in such an instance it is necessary to work out a "code of behavior" between Ukraine and the countries of the ruble zone, since their economies are even more interdependent than the economies of the states of the "Common Market" or the former CEMA.

Assessing the position of the present Russian Government, the CEC representative drew attention to the cabinet's determination to continue the path of reforms.

Khasbulatov, Japanese Delegation Meet

LD2503135892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov received Taro Nakayama, member of the Japanese Diet, in Moscow today. At the meeting they discussed prospects for health care cooperation between the two countries. The delegation led by Taro Nakayama has been participating in the constituent assembly of the Russian-Japanese Medical Fund. A Japanese medical center in Moscow is planned. Agreement has been reached on reciprocal visits and work experience for medical workers of both countries.

'Pragmatic Interests' Rule Sino-Russian Ties

PM2503114592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 6

[Maksim Yusin article: "Moscow-Beijing: Trial Period. Will Two Ideologically Incompatible Regimes Be Able to Establish Full-Fledged Cooperation?"]

[Text] On the eve of Andrey Kozyrev's visit to China there were misgivings at the Russian Foreign Ministry. In private conversation diplomats admitted that, following the putsch and the disintegration of the USSR, there had been an unjustifiably long break in relations between Beijing and the new Kremlin leaders. The contacts at foreign-minister level which had taken place regularly under Shevardnadze had ceased. The two countries' top leaders had confined themselves to a brief meeting at the UN Security Council session in New York. Kozyrev's visit was to end uncertainty and provide an answer to the main question—would Communist China and a Russia which had renounced communism be able to overcome ideological antagonism and develop normal relations?

The Russian minister's trip largely dispelled the misgivings. Political differences remained in the background, and the talks were calm and extremely polite. Both Kozyrev and the Chinese leaders declared themselves fully satisfied with the results of their meetings.

Yeltsin Visit to Beijing Likely, but Timing Uncertain

Chinese Premier Li Peng officially invited Boris Yeltsin to come to Beijing. Although the Russian president has not yet replied, the view at the Foreign Ministry is that such a trip is relatively likely. True, the timing remains undecided. According to a member of the Russian delegation, the Chinese let it be known that they would not like Yeltsin's visit to Beijing to be "tacked on" to his September tour of the Far East (the Russian president is due to visit Seoul and Tokyo).

For the time being it is uncertain whether Yeltsin will manage to find time for two trips to a relatively remote region. It is possible that the visit will have to be put off until next year.

Summing up the results of his two-day stay in Bejing, Kozyrev told journalists that Russia's policy toward China is determined above all by pragmatic considerations today. This flexible formula makes it possible to combine rigorous criticism of the Chinese authorities in the human rights sphere with the development of economic cooperation.

"You Cannot Chose Your Neighbors"

As for political relations, they are likely to remain strained in the next few years. Neither Kozyrev nor, it is to be assumed, his Chinese interlocutors have any illusions in this respect. While the current leaders remain in power in Russia and China, these countries are not likely to become close allies or partners.

Those who crushed the student movement with tanks three years ago are unlikely to inspire the sympathies of the new Russia's leaders. In turn, deep down the Chinese leaders will never forgive Yeltsin for his anticommunist statements and for banning the CPSU.

"It is important not to allow our relations with China to turn into an ideological confrontation," Kozyrev said at the meeting with journalists in Beijing. "You cannot chose your neighbors. Whether we like the present Chinese leadership or not, we must cooperate with them. There is no other option. Russia has 4,300 km of common border with China. Apart from that, collaboration in the Asia-Pacific region is in the interests of both countries," one of the diplomats who accompanied Kozyrev on his trip believes.

Talks Participants Studiously Avoided Sensitive Issues

"We made no secret of our differences with China in the approach to human rights," Kozyrev told journalists at the end of the talks. However, on the whole, according to Russian diplomats, both sides carefully avoided sensitive issues as if they had reached a tacit agreement on this matter.

For example, the situation in Tibet was not raised once. Even though, it would seem, there was every reason for doing so. Shortly before Kozyrev's visit to China a minor sensation had occurred. At a session of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva our representative voted for the first time for the inclusion on the agenda of human rights violations in Tibet. This was, of course, an unpleasant surprise for China. Nonetheless, Kozyrev's interlocutors preferred not to seek explanations, especially since Russia's official stance remains unchanged. We continue to regard Tibet as part of China. Reservations are being expressed only in connection with the Chinese authorities' observance of the indigenous population's rights.

As Regards Taiwan, Russia Accepts Chinese Rules of Play

As distinct from Tibet, another sensitive Chinese foreign policy issue—Taiwan—did feature in the talks. What is more, it was raised by Li Peng himself. The State Council premier said that China is satisfied with Russia's policy in respect of Taiwan, it does not object to our developing economic ties with the island, but it "urgently requests" that we desist from establishing official relations with the regime, which Beijing regards as illegal.

This polite reminder was no accident. Alarm is growing in China that the strengthening economic contacts between Taiwan and Russia might grow into political ones. At the talks and in numerous interviews Kozyrev reassured the Chinese that such fears are unfounded. It appears that this is correct. Even in unofficial conversations, which tend to be more frank, Russian diplomats rule out the possibility of major changes in our attitude to Taiwan.

Realizing that for Beijing the rebel island's future is too fundamental and sensitive an issue, Russia has agreed to accept the Chinese rules of play. We regard Taiwan as part of PRC territory. We are not likely to establish political relations with Taiwan in the foreseeable future.

In this Russia is not alone. Neither the United States nor Japan has risked confrontation with China for the sake of Taiwan. Moscow is displaying the same pragmatic approach. The advantages ensuing from establishing close ties with Taiwan, with its population of 20 million, could not make up for the economic and political losses which a break with gigantic China would entail.

At the same time (again in the light of pragmatic interests) Russia does not intend to curb its economic cooperation with Taiwan. Naturally, this does not evoke enthusiasm in Beijing but it does not infringe the "rules of play." Which is what Li Peng reminded Kozyrev about.

Summing up the results of the first visit of Russia's foreign minister to a communist country, it is possible to note that their mutual geopolitical gravitation and the need for economic cooperation have prevailed over ideological hostility. The six-month hiatus in Russian-Chinese relations has ended although it is too early to claim that the trial period is over.

View of U.S. 'Potential Ally' Dismissed

PM2503115492 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 24 Mar 92 p 3

[Eduard Volodin article under the rubric "In the Planet's Mirror": "Our 'Potential Ally' Is Watchful"]

[Text] The head of Russia's foreign policy department recently put forward the astounding idea that America is our potential ally. This is original thought of the highest caliber. According to this original line of thinking, our country was attacked 22 June 1941 by a potential ally, but at that time our people were unenlightened, and we know what kind of a government there was. For this reason we did not get to the bottom of matters with our potential ally, and only now are the "democrats," descendants of Smerdyakov [character in Dostoyevskiy's "The Brothers Karamazov"], explaining what should have been done to avoid Stalingrad, the Leningrad blockade, and our banner being raised above the Reichstag.

But times have changed, and democracy, which was victorious in August, is capable of generating staggering ideas. Not only of generating them but of "planting them in people's consciousness." In this way the SDI program being implemented by the United States is being created by a potential ally and should be supported. The latest aircraft are being shipped to Turkey—for our benefit, in order once again to show the Iraqi people who's the boss. Lithuania is declared a U.S. sphere of vital interest—also for the sake of our prosperity, to lock Russia into the Baltic to avert a possible reemergence of the "evil empire."

True, the Americans themselves have not responded to new ideas in the area of international relations. They have other worries. Left in proud isolation, the United States is now arranging its affairs without reference to the USSR and at the expense of the interests of the former superpower, which is now lying in ruins. Moreover, all the the United States's actions and intentions unequivocally suggest that Russia is still its potential enemy, and only people totally devoid of patriotic feeling cannot see this.

The political trickery connected with granting independence to the three Baltic Soviet republics is an important foreign policy victory for the United States. Russia has lost its room to maneuver in the Baltic—from the military, economic, and geopolitical points of view.

The muddle over the Black Sea Fleet is but a small part of the large problem of Russia's southern exit to the Mediterranean and Atlantic. Under such circumstances, Russia will be left with only Novorossiysk as a port under its control, while at the same time independent Ukraine, which is already going full speed ahead toward the German sphere of influence, will determine the real situation and supremacy in the Black Sea.

Finally the criminal campaign to hand the Kuril Islands over to Japan (while in those selfsame United States any participant in such a campaign would be declared a state criminal) is aimed at blocking Russia's eastern ports and stopping our fleet acting freely in the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

We are being cast back to the 17th century when Arkhangelsk was the only port linking Russia with the outside world. They call this destroying the iron curtain? We are being driven into an enclosed continental area. Is the United States methodically seeking to destroy Russia geopolitically, isolate it from the outside world, and create conditions to control Russia's contacts with the outside world?

There is yet one more problem which our dear "potential ally" is now trying urgently to resolve. Russia must of course be isolated from the outside world, but the country has such a mighty potential that it will naturally strive to break free from the artificially created isolation. To prevent this, it is necessary to direct the nation's energies toward resolving the problems of national survival. What is more these should be problems not of internal national revival and development but of simple self-preservation. In the tragic circumstances in which Russia now finds itself, the Islamic factor may constitute such a problem of national survival and self-preservation not because the Islamic world is Russia's eternal antagonist. All our history bears witness to the possibility and necessity of mutual understanding, mutual tolerance, and cooperation. An Islamic-Russian [russkaya] confrontation is now being manufactured, in order in the first place to disrupt the ethnic peace in Russia, and second so that all our nation's energies are directed exclusively toward the North Caucasus and Central Asia as potential centers of destabilization.

It seems to me that it is for this very reason that U.S. embassies are being opened in such haste in the Central Asian republics. The United States is using any means to

play up to nationalism in order to destroy de facto our economic, cultural, and historical ties. In order to subsequently Americanize religious fundamentalism (i.e. make it supranational and Russophobic at one and the same time) and engender endless ethnic conflicts, in which the United States' aim of finally destroying the Russian [rossiyskogo] state is paid for in the blood of Russians [russkikh] and Muslims.

I understand the Central Asian states' leaders—the U.S. embassies lend them prestige, significance, importance. You can also understand them in connection with the present Russian [rossiyskikh] rulers' successive actions to destroy Russian-Muslim [russko-musulmanskikh] ties, an example of which is their pro-Armenian policy in the Transcaucasus and arrogance toward the Central Asian leaders. Genuine state thinking should not so much reflect external pressures as orient itself toward national interests and historical principles of national existence. These—individually and in their totality—orient the state's existence toward a solid alliance with Russia and a single international policy. There is no other future for us. Otherwise our "potential ally" will play our peoples off against each other until they finally utterly destroy each other.

Purposes of Russian-Kazakh Contacts Viewed

PM2603122392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Vasiliy Kononenko article: "The Russian-Kazakh Meeting in Uralsk Did Not Take Place Behind the Commonwealth's Back"]

[Text] The unexpected meeting of government delegations from Russia and Kazakhstan was undoubtedly a timely piece of "groundwork" laid with the knowledge of CIS partners. This conclusion becomes obvious if viewed in the context of the outcome of the Kiev session of Commonwealth Heads of State Council.

Prime Minister S. Tereshchenko of Kazakhstan admitted at a news conference in Uralsk that the initiative for holding such an extensive discussion of bilateral problems had been under consideration for some time. For how long? Back at the Moscow meeting of the heads of state in January President N. Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan told an IZVESTIYA correspondent that, if it proved impossible to remove the barriers within the CIS which are tying producers hand and foot, he would propose to B. Yeltsin that these complex problems be resolved through bilateral contacts.

In response to my question as to what provided the impulse for holding these talks V. Mashchits, chairman of the Russian State Committee for Relations with the Commonwealth, told me during the talks in Uralsk that the meeting's main documents had been prepared by the two sides working under pressure during the past two weeks. The Kazakh premier also added that the presidents had worked during the last weekend, that is since the Kiev meeting, and issued instructions to hold the meeting without delay. For the sake of complete clarity it is necessary to add that the Kiev meeting demonstrated two alarming trends—the fruitlessness of attempts to elaborate an effective mechanism to resolve complex problems within the Commonwealth framework, and Ukraine's transparent intention, judging by President L. Kravchuk's statement, to bid farewell to the CIS in the near future. B. Yeltsin and N. Nazarbayev picked up this signal and decided to act without delay. There and then, in Kiev, according to S. Tereshchenko, the heads of government of Russia and Kazakhstan briefed colleagues on their plans.

What dividends will the Uralsk meeting bring them? It has to be admitted—considerable ones. In the economic sphere a whole series of concrete agreements have been signed which provide for the restoration of disrupted production ties, a coordination of taxation and pricing policy, functioning of transport, determination within a very short time of the scale of the internal debt and of the assets and liabilities of the former USSR State Bank (which defied agreement in Kiev), and also seven protocols concerning the two states' ministries and departments. They include a protocol on joint efforts to ensure the operation of the space infrastructure which includes the Baykonur and Plesetsk Cosmodromes. This is a bilateral document but it will be submitted for examination to the other Commonwealth partners.

Naturally the question arises about using the same old mechanism to ensure the implementation of these intentions. The talks participants declared that the governments themselves will act as guarantors of their implementation. They pledge that they will compensate producers for disadvantageous working conditions, not necessarily by means of subsidies from the state budgets, but also through favorable taxation terms and advantageous currency operations. Furthermore the Russian Government, as reported earlier, is prepared to reschedule the liberalization of prices for energy sources (most probably they will be freed only in May) with a view to preventing additional difficulties from arising for Kazakhstan's economy.

It appears that the political dividends from the Uralsk meeting will be no less important for both states. First, the accords reached there are intended to demonstrate to CIS partners that, where the will exists, it is possible to eliminate any obstacles. This was emphasized at the news conference. Second, the meeting's results provide the government with important trump cards against the forces, especially in Russia, which are questioning the correctness of the economic reform tactics.

Why is it specifically Russia and Kazakhstan which have demonstrated mutual determination to accelerate the establishment of ties in the new circumstances? G. Burbulis explained that this was due to the shared stance of the two states' leaderships in respect of the economic reform. He emphasized the two fundamental principles by which the delegations were guided—bilateral accords and agreements within the CIS framework.

Brezhnev Dacha Leased To Iraqi-Backed Company

PM2603101592 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 24 Mar 92 p 2

["Privatization Diary" report by O. Shapovalov under the general heading "Spring. Capitalism on the Next Street:" "Baghdad Involved"]

[Text] Stavropol—A list of items of kray and federal property due for compulsory privatization this year has been published in Stavropol. It comprises mainly enterprises in the food and sewn goods industries and the motor vehicle transport sector. It is worth noting that there are no plans for the privatization of a single health farm, sanatorium, or recreation site in the group of cities in the Caucasus region of Mineralnyye Vody, whose chief asset is health resorts. But the former CPSU Central Committee dacha known as "Brezhnev's dacha" has been transferred on a 99-year lease to the "Asmaral" joint venture, which is headed by an Iraqi citizen. One year less than a century is long enough to develop a taste for owning this property, valued at millions of rubles.

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin, Tatarstan's Shaymiyev Start Talks

LD2503133492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1217 GMT 25 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Russia and Tatarstan are beginning negotiations on delimiting powers, Ramazan Abdulatipov, chairman of the Russian Federation Parliament's Soviet of Nationalities, has declared. He announced at a meeting with journalists on 25 March that a dialogue would begin between the presidents of Russia and Tatarstan. Ramazan Abdulatipov added that in a telephone conversation the presidents stressed the need for the accords on the Republic of Tatarstan remaining within the Russian Federation to be implemented.

Yeltsin Meeting With Party Leaders Assessed

MK2503131192 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Mar 92 p 1

[Mikhail Karpov report under the "Power" rubric: "Yeltsin Consults in Kremlin With Leaders of Political Parties. They Did Not Just Discuss Preparations for the Upcoming Congress at the Meeting"]

[Text] The scenario for yesterday's meeting was, first of all, a discussion of the present state and prospects for the development of the CIS. Representatives of political parties were given an account of the results of the Kiev meeting as seen by the Russian president. The particularities of relations between Russia and Ukraine and the problems of the Crimea and the Dnestr region [Pridnestrovye] generated the most interest. Neither was the topic of the protection of the armed forces sidestepped.

The second issue was Russian statehood, particularly the problem of concluding the Federation Treaty.

Naturally, there also was talk of the upcoming Congress of People's Deputies. The central theme here, of course, was the draft constitution, whose latest version was handed out to the representatives of the parties during the meeting itself. Incidentally, this has not yet been published anywhere. In this connection, the discussion centered on how far this version is ready for adoption at the Congress, what future the alternative drafts have, and how Boris Yeltsin himself regards the current proposals to convene a Constituent Assembly in order to adopt a constitution. As is well known, the president is in favor of the Congress giving birth to the constitution. He has not changed his viewpoint.

The problem of the future implementation of agrarian reform occupied an important place among the economic issues that were discussed.

As was to be expected, the mutual relations between the president and the political parties, whose representatives followed the now traditional pattern of insisting on closer cooperation with him, were not left on the sidelines. As on previous occasions, the parties clearly voiced the notion that they are in urgent need of more tender, even paternal, care from Boris Yeltin personally.

The very fact that this meeting was held seems to show that, besides anything else, however hard certain Russian political analysts try to instill in their compatriots the idea that the multiparty system in the Republic is having a protracted infancy, the president has a somewhat different approach to this. It is perfectly clear that it is not a question of any short-term interest on his part. It has more to do with Boris Yeltsin's awareness that they have a role to play in the more distant future, which undoubtedly will be characterized by the growing significance of the parties, especially when Russia faces the first multiparty elections in its history. Informed sources believe that at the Congress itself the Russian parties scarcely will be able to give the president any new breaks.

Rutskoy Outlines Private Land Ownership Plans

LD2503210492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1317 GMT 25 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vasiliy Titov and Petr Tsyrendorzhiyev]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Mar (TASS)—The renewal and deepening of economic links between the countries of the former socialist community and the CIS on a principally new level is a necessary and timely task, Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy considers. He was speaking today at an international congress which opened here titled "For a Regional Eastern European and Asian

Market." The vice president laid out a concept for agrarian reform in Russia developed by a group of experts under his leadership. It is based on the recognition of the right of everybody to private land ownership. Aleksandr Rutskoy reported that it is proposed to issue state shares for the needs of the reforms. It is proposed to realize them in two ways: To transfer them free of charge to the section of the population unable to work, so by leasing the shares [sdav aktsii v arendu] it would be possible to live on the income. The second way is to sell the shares through banks and other financial organizations. In the vice president's opinion all this would allow the ruble to stabilize and land to be given to the worker.

The creation of an international fund for land and agro-industrial reform in Russia may give vital help in conducting agrarian reform, the vice president stressed. In this case, Western credits would be sent to the rural economy in order to implement well-grounded, special purpose programs. Touching on the problem of conversion, Aleksandr Rutskoy noted that competent implementation should give Russia world level agricultural equipment. According to specialists' calculations, he stressed, the country is annually losing up to 48 percent of all agricultural production grown during processing and transportation. Today in Russia four state and twelve commercial corporations have been created which have begun developing promising equipment. They have already created more than 50 models. That is why investments are necessary from both Russian and foreign enterpreuners, the vice president concluded.

Gaydar on Economy, Military Expenditures

LD2503232492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1855 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Interview with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar by domestic newspaper correspondents including MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI correspondent Vladimir Gurevich, TRUD correspondent Nikolay Dorofeyev, MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS correspondent Vadim Poegle, and KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Vladimir Gavrilenko, and presented by Georgiy Dolgov and Tatyana Krasnova in Moscow on the "Without Retouching" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Dolgov] Who would you like to receive the first question from?

[Gaydar] Well, let MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI begin.

[Gurevich] [passage omitted] We are now confronting a situation which repeats what happened in the winter and which you mentioned some time ago. First we announced price liberalization and now the freeing of oil prices. Then we postponed the implementation of this decision. But people and the economy cannot wait anymore. What I mean is that the people are already starting to implement this decision themselves. [passage omitted]

[Gaydar] It must be remembered that it is impossible to cheat on reality. Fuel, in broad terms, costs as much as it should cost. It is already impossible to maintain today's prices for oil because of, let's say, the nonferrous metals prices. They are already being sold at world prices, i.e. at full world prices. Prices for metals are already very high. But oil prices are at present only 3.5 percent of world prices even at the present and absurd exchange rates. This correlation of exchange rates cannot be maintained any more at the same level. That is why it is inevitable that the prices are being increased. We were forced under pressure to allow oil workers to sell 20 percent of the oil at free prices, then 40 percent. Now, since their financial problem is such an acute one, they are already trying to achieve with this small share of 3.5 percent all they could have hoped to achieve when prices are freed in the future. The prices at which they are trying to sell oil now are far higher than the balanced [ravnovestnikh] prices, i.e. the prices at which it is possible to sell all the oil. In broad terms, I am always extremely worried that such decisions may become politicized. Unlike retail prices, a thing such as the liberalization of fuel prices has hardly been noticed by anyone. Then certain inflation processes follow. Some feel the pinch immediately and others are not hit so hard. Consumers who use gasoline are hit immediately whereas many branches of the economy do not feel the pinch for some time.

Do you know that prices for metal today are determined by prices for Donbass coal? Do you know that the prices of coal, which is the main fuel in Ukraine, have been freed as of 1 January? And when horror pictures of an apocalypse are drawn—about what will happen when prices are unfrozen—one should simply look at what is happening in Ukraine. The situation there is a difficult one, but is nothing near what the horror stories picture. The fact is that today many of the republics are selling oil at prices which are very close to those that could be set in conditions of a normal balance on the market.

[Gurevich] Then perhaps we are doing the wrong thing by freeing prices when actually they will free themselves?

[Gaydar] In broad terms this is not a great act of political decisionmaking. This is simply an economic inevitability. [passage omitted]

[Dorogeyev] [passage omitted] Do you think there is some sort of a limit—a lower or higher limit—beyond which the bulk of the population will not be able to tighten its belt any more and which will simply spell the end? Does such a limit exist in your view?

[Gaydar] Without any doubt, such a limit exists. There is a limit to society's social endurance. But we simply have to take a sober look at what is happening at the moment. January was a period of overreaction, let's say, and of society's and the economy's adjustment to the market. There was a sharp reduction of the real incomes of the population exceeding the demands of the economy. For all the difficulties of today's situation—and they are great—real incomes for February, not in relation to last

February, but in relation to January, went up, albeit only a little. In March they have continued to rise slowly, and it would be very dangerous to accelerate their growth. But they are continuing to grow.

[Dorofeyev] Yegor Timurovich, I'd like to clarify things. So you think that we haven't yet got to this limit, whatever it is, and that it still awaits us?

[Gaydar] If we had reached that limit, we would have had the social cataclysm which my colleagues were talking about with such unanimity on the eve of the January price liberalization.

[Dorofeyev] But you don't expect it to happen?

[Gaydar] I sincerely hope we can avoid it.

[Dorofeyev] To be honest, I sometimes hear you on television and at various meetings, and I am struck by your optimism. Where do you get the strength for such optimism?

[Gaydar] I primarily draw strength from the fact that I have quite a good understanding of the situation in which our economy finds itself. I realize quite well that by and large what we are doing is pretty well inevitable. It is the only possible and sensible course of action, difficult though things are. Given that this is the case, I think that as a society we must find all the strength we can to get through this difficult stage.

[Poegle] Yegor Timurovich, you and other government members have repeatedly stated that Russia will not give up the current Soviet ruble, that you will strengthen it in every way possible, and that you even intend to introduce internal convertibility, specifically for the Soviet ruble. Now, however, following the Ukrainian parliament session yesterday—no, I mean the day before yesterday—it probably seems that Ukraine is giving up the ruble. Will a ruble area be possible without Ukraine?

[Gaydar] Let us be clear that we are not planning to maintain our union ruble because we are seeking to suit somebody or to solve the problems of other CIS states and to please Ukraine, but because it is the most effective strategy for us, as Russia. If Russia, its economy, accounted for 30 or 35 percent of the economy of the former ruble zone—as happened in Austria and in Hungary after the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian empire—any attempts to keep the union ruble would clearly be doomed to failure. That would be a senseless, unnecessary policy. But in the conditions of our country—the indicators differ, but Russia is, all the same, 60 or 70 percent of the economy of the former ruble zone—the most effective strategy is to keep the existing unit of currency, because any playing about with the unit of currency, unless there is extreme need, is always dangerous.

When people talk about the risk of ruble intervention, that is a relatively minor annoyance. Regarding cash in people's pockets, now that the overall ratio of the amount of money in circulation to the current volume of production has declined sharply, there is simply no way that any kind of cash intervention from Ukraine will ruin us today. Most of it will be felt by Belgorod, Rostov, and some other border oblasts, but most of Russia will simply not feel it, even if such a thing does happen. As for how dangerous it is to introduce unstable republican currencies, I think the experience of Ukraine itself ought to persuade us to take a balanced view here.

[Poegle] How will this union ruble return from the territory of Ukraine then? Will it be bought up by the government and exchanged for foreign currency at some fixed rate?

[Gaydar] Why should it? If the union ruble circulates in Ukraine—generally, we have been negotiating with Ukraine about the civilized introduction of separate currencies, about ensuring that if Ukraine decides to introduce its own currency, it will do so in an organized, orderly manner, in accordance with customary procedures under the joint arbitration of international financial organizations. This also assumes that an appropriate amount of cash in rubles will be withdrawn from circulation and exchanged for the new Ukrainian money, if Ukraine considers its introduction necessary, and after that, naturally, transferred to the central issuing bank. That will be the normal procedure. In no way do I want to suppose that it will be breached, but if it is, it does not assume that Russia has any special obligations, as a state, to buy that money. The money can simply continue to function in a common ruble zone. [passage omitted]

[Gavrilenko] Yegor Timorovich, we already know that all the CIS countries have determined their position on military issues, and a military minister, a defense minister, will appear in your cabinet shortly. What next?

[Gaydar] Well, in a certain sense one already has appeared—the president. Of course, Russia needs a clear position on the Army, it needs a clear position on its own defense policy, but in a certain sense this stand of silence, which was preserved until recently, also was understandable. But today, unfortunately, despite all our agreements with the republics—we are consulting a lot, arguing, indeed we are determining who must finance the Army—there have as yet been no payments, apart from Ukraine, which is financing the troops on its territory. No payments to the ministry's budget, actually the Defense Ministry, now the high command, are coming in from the republics. Practically the whole of this burden is de facto being laid on Russia. Well, of course, in this situation Russia has to determine what kind of army it can permit itself, and what kind of army it wants.

[Gavrilenko] And what kind of army can it permit itself?

[Gaydar] Well, what kind can be permitted is determined by our budget possibilities, because military expenditures, with all its significance, nevertheless is money that we are not spending on kindergartens, medicines, subsidies for cotton wool, and so on. It is necessary to have a clear idea that this is a direct deduction

from our public consumption, and it cannot be huge in the present situation of a most difficult crisis. At the same time we consider that the social interests of the Army cannot be damaged. At the moment, 384,000 million rubles of military expenditures are in the Russian budget. This is too little for the Army's needs, but it is very much for the Russian budget.

[Gavrilenko] Yegor Timorovich, another question. Boris Nikolayevich at the all-army meeting of representatives of officers' assemblies promised apartments to all—let's put it more or less like that, he promised. Does your government have a mechanism which will fulfill this promise?

[Gaydar] Well, how should I put it. You understand that it is impossible to instantaneously, with a magic wand, immediately, tomorrow, give all officers an apartment. Okay, what are we doing? First, one of the areas which is not cut at all in defense expenditures in comparison with the former Soviet Union is the expenditure on housing construction for officers. Moreover, it has increased in comparison with 1991. Taking into account the fact—which you probably know—that today's investive ruble actually is much more sound than last year's, because last year it was impossible to find a construction organization while today they are in line behind anybody who can finance. Today it is only a question of money, how much means, money, we can use to construct officers' housing. This is one of our most important budget priorities. [passage omitted]

[Dolgov] A very strange situation with taxes has now taken shape. Taxes do not have the return you had hoped. At any rate this is what has been reported by the Goskomstat and the Finance Ministry. Could you tell us how one can get out of this vicious circle? I mean, enterprises cannot pay their taxes because their production level is decreasing and accordingly the revenue part of the budget is being reduced, forming some sort of a [word indistinct]. Perhaps we have just tightened the screw too much as far as this system is concerned.

[Gaydar] No, things although troublesome are not so tragic. Taxes themselves behave differently. The amount of tax on revenue obtained in the first two months was approximately 11 billion rubles higher than envisaged in the year's budget. The amount of income tax received was approximately 5 billion rubles higher. We had problems with the value-added tax connected with the fact that it takes some time, even if it is a very short period, to adapt to any tax. We failed to receive virtually any value-added tax in the first half of January—1.4 billion rubles. Then the amount we received started to increase rather rapidly. It was 9 billion rubles in the second half of January; 14 billion in the first part of February; 18 billion in the second half of February; and approximately 20 billion rubles in the first part of March. And, at the moment, it reaches approximately the level we forecast. Basically, we expected that tax arrears would be a bit smaller than they were in the beginning of this period of adaptation.

[Dolgov] But do you hope that this will level out?

[Gaydar] We hope that it will level out. [passage omitted]

Economic Outlook: 'Do Not Panic'

PM2503170092 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 25 Mar 92 p 2

[Interview with Russian Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar by I. Savvateyeva; place and date not given: "Yegor Gaydar: The Economy Must Be Economical—the Vice Premier on the First Results of the Radical Reform"]

[Text] [Savvateyeva] Yegor Timurovich, not only are ordinary consumers less than delighted about the release of prices for energy sources, but many eminent economists too. So why is such a radical step needed?

[Gaydar] Coal and especially oil cost far more than we pay for them now. Unless things change, there will simply be insufficient funds to extract them. It would not take much for this sector to grind to a halt, and the entire national economy will crumble in its wake. The current price structure, based on cheap energy, cannot continue. It gives a completely distorted and false picture of what is happening in the economy, rendering it impossible to envisage what needs to be done in order to pull this economy out of crisis. The liberalization of prices for energy sources will highlight inefficient production units which consume more than they produce. In the final analysis, it is in many ways precisely because they consume so much that we live so badly. We want to attain a price level which, at current ruble exchange rates, would amount to 25 percent of world prices. At this level, the cost of oil will fluctuate between 2,000 rubles [R] and R2,600 a tonne.

[Savvateyeva] But by how much will prices for consumer goods rise subsequently?

[Gaydar] There will not be a disastrous upsurge. I sometimes think, a little shamefacedly: If we had a totalitarian state with strict control over the media and a government which said nothing but quietly went about its business, then the majority of people—except for car enthusiasts, of course—wouldn't notice anything for the first few weeks. In our country already, prices have been unfrozen for a considerable proportion of petroleum products: 20 percent since the beginning of the year and 40 percent since the beginning of the month are sold at free prices. For car enthusiasts, the changes will be perceptible. In the early stages, gasoline will cost between R5 and R7 a liter. For other goods, the price change will come into effect over the course of time. The chain reaction will mean price rises in public transport, particularly journeys by air. Eventually apartment rents will change too. Incidentally, they will also have to be reviewed in connection with privatization. But in general, housing is a question for the local budget.

[Savvateyeva] At the moment, many people are saying that releasing prices for energy sources could lead to a complete halt in production, which has already been collapsing since January...

[Gaydar] Can I just say that, paradoxical though it may sound, the January liberalization did not accelerate the slump in production. The main downturn happened last year and reflected the collapse of economic links, the general disorganization in the basic sectors, and the fall in imports. In fact, since January a significant rise in the daily average output of coal and coke has been recorded, and gas production has stabilized. The production of metals is also rising. The situation with oil continues to be unfavorable, but it will, of course, change as a result of the forthcoming price liberalization.

The fact that the structural crisis in these sectors, which are insanely overblown, has manifested itself particularly severely since January is another matter. I remember once writing about how in our country in the middle of the year the number of combine harvesters left standing idle because they are defective is equal to the number America needs to produce in a decade. And this has no effect on production. But now, when prices for combine harvesters have risen so much that nobody will purchase them in the former quantities, there will naturally be a fall in production. The same goes for military hardware, heavy machine building, and construction. Thus, two parallel processes will define the state of production in the immediate future: the gradual stabilization of the work of the basic sectors and the start of the structural crisis.

[Savvateyeva] With regard to the crisis, I doubt that anybody is going to disagree with you. But in recent times, it is increasingly said that this structural restructuring [perestroyka], for the sake of which we are having to suffer the horrors of every kind of crisis, is not particularly visible. There has been no obvious rise in the production of the goods people need....

[Gaydar] Structural restructuring cannot happen in two months: The sectors in structural crisis are only just being identified. Something which we are monitoring. But so far there has been no actual increase in consumer goods, although the trend toward a slower rate of fall in their production has been noted. Incidentally, in the area of food products it is possible to see the structural restructuring mechanism at work. In the last three months, record stocks of meat have been built up in the trade sector, somewhere around the 1970's levels. We have started to replace what was discarded in the last six years. No doubt meat stocks are also building up because of the lack of feed and the slaughtering of livestock, but the main reason nevertheless is that the market has started to operate. Producers are cutting production and increasing prices in the hope of making a fast profit. However, it soon becomes clear that consumer demand is elastic and it switches to other goods. As a result, the producer's income disappears, and he runs to the government or the bank for credit so that he can continue working fruitlessly. Our policy of restructurization [perestrukturirovaniye] consists precisely in not issuing credits to those who should be thrown into the market as quickly as possible.

[Savvateyeva] You are blamed for the fact that to this day there is no single program for conversion, without which serious changes to the economic structure are simply impossible.

[Gaydar] It is not necessary. A single conversion program is a remnant of a past where there was huge centralized capital investment and a single State Planning Committee. We need a range of conversion programs—targeted, tailored, oriented toward specific sectors and specific consumers. They are being elaborated. For example, the program for using infantry combat vehicles for the timber-producing industry, cannon tubes for oil extraction, and many others.

[Savvateyeva] Yegor Timurovich, why is privatization progressing so slowly? State Property Committee Chairman Chubays promised that the turning point would come in mid-February: March is drawing to a close but the turning point....

[Gaydar] This is true. The process is slow. By the end of the year we had planned to gain R92 billion from privatization, but for January-February we got only R425 million. A trend toward acceleration was noted in March: in the space of 10 days, privatization generated R840 million. We have to think constantly about what to do in specific cases. What will happen in rural regions where there will be no real competition? How should we treat major foreign investors? Of course, it is possible to privatize quickly once you have set up a new structure for ownership. But it would engender tremendous social conflict if the property is handed over to the "bosses." Or you could create a structure that is bound to be inefficient, by handing everything over to the labor collectives.

[Savvateyeva] Your critics claim that, despite a strict finance and budget policy, the government has achieved nothing, the economy is verging on hyperinflation, and in the budget they cannot make ends meet....

[Gaydar] This is not true. There are no preconditions for hyperinflation today. It was a real danger while the "monetary excess" [denezhniy naves] existed—that is, an artificially accumulated money supply in conditions of a weak financial policy and administrative price controls. In general, this is the biggest problem in the transition from a military economy (not necessarily socialist) to a peacetime economy: How do we eradicate the "monetary excess" without triggering hyperinflation? I believe we have managed to do this. And if there is no excess, then we can talk about the possibility of inflation, high inflation (its level will depend on the stringency of monetary and budget policy), but in such circumstances hyperinflation no longer poses a threat.

With regard to the budget deficit: For January-February it was zero, the budget balanced. We only issued finance on the strength of real income. Now we can even afford to be more lenient in budget policy. March will end with quite a substantial deficit, but this is because we have managed to finance a whole range of programs.

[Savvateyeva] Won't such backtracking reduce previous efforts to nothing?

[Gaydar] I hope not. First, we regulate any backtracking. Second, we only backtrack at a time when we ourselves consider a slight retreat to be possible and then only in order to regroup our forces. So that against the backdrop of liberalizing prices for energy sources we will gain additional sources of income, and by the end of the year the quarterly deficit will again be reduced to a level not exceeding 2 percent of GNP.

[Savvateyeva] What about the ruble?

[Gaydar] Right now there are quite strong inflationary expectations in connection with the forthcoming liberalization of prices for energy sources, and the ruble rate is under a lot of pressure. This will continue at least until the moment of liberalization and persist for approximately three weeks afterwards. We believe that the ruble rate should stabilize at a level significantly below today's.

[Savvateyeva] Again, rumors of monetary reform have broken out...

[Gaydar] The Russian Government is not preparing any reform involving the abolition of Union money.

[Savvateyeva] Now something which worries us all, without exception: mass unemployment. Is this a real threat?

[Gaydar] There is unlikely to be mass unemployment by the end of the year. Six million—yes, but even that is an elevated figure. Gradually, however, unemployment will rise further. What do I advise? Shake off old habits, get out and look for a new job. Do not panic—there is tremendous opportunity in our country for employment in the service sphere and in the market infrastructure. And again, of course, it is worth constantly reminding ourselves that a job is not for life. I don't want to frighten you. I simply want people to realize: All of us face the same choice: Either a small risk of unemployment and miserly wages for all, or a greater risk of unemployment and high wages for those who create goods which the people need.

Nechayev To Delay Energy Price Liberalization

OW2503155092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1308 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russian minister of the economy, Andrey Nechayev, confirmed in an interview with "INTERFAX" that the Russian Government has agreed to Kazakhstan's request to reconsider the issue of delaying the time at which prices for energy products will be freed. Prices were to be freed in April of this year. Nechayev said that it would be impossible to put price liberalization off until mid-summer, as Alma-Ata requested. The delay will extend probably for up to a month and a half beyond the planned time.

Andrey Nechayev further said that there has been no final decision as to how oil prices will be freed. One of the possible variants would be a gradual increase in prices over time. For example, in Mr. Nechayev's opinion, the first step could be to increase oil prices by 4 times their present prices. The government is not yet planning to free coal prices. Coal will have fixed balanced prices.

Khlystun Comments on Agriculture Allocations

OW2503133492 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1900 GMT 24 Mar 92

[M. Solntsev, S. Konoplina interview; from the "Utro" program—live]

[Text] Let me introduce our guest: Viktor Nikolayevich Khlystun, Russian Minister of Agriculture.

The video report that we have just seen claims that this year's allocation [for agriculture] is the same as in 1989. Is it true? Do you agree with this?

[Khlystun] I would even say that it is less than in 1989. It would also be wrong to calculate according to 1989 prices, since today prices are much higher and more burdensome for the peasant. The practical resources of the government today are such that, although more than a third of the budget is allocated to agriculture, it is still not nearly enough. This does not even provide 30 percent of the agricultural needs today.

[Solntsev] In previous years, we used to hear—well, if not triumphant messages, then continuous reports that preparations for sowing were going on, that all was just fine, and that the equipment was functioning. Today, there are no such reports, or there are very few of them. So what is going on? Will we be sowing this year?

[Khlystin] Undoubtedly. The spring, summer and fall will be very difficult. We are pretty sure that the spring sowing will be carried out on time. The winter crops are not doing badly, and preparation of the equipment is a little worse than last year, but it is not catastrophic. The problems of supplying fuel, lubricants and seeds are largely solved. There are a few very difficult problems remaining, such as the slight shortage of potato seeds, the severe shortage of aviation fuel, and the shortage of means to protect plants.

[Solntsev] But you think that these problems are solvable?

[Khlystun] Not completely, but basically they can be solved.

[Solntsev] Do you agree with the claim often appearing in the media that agriculture is in a state of total disintegration, and that it could not be worse?

[Khlystun] No. I absolutely disagree. The situation in the agricultural sector is extremely difficult, but the peasants go on working and looking for a solution even under such harsh conditions. They try to prepare for the sowing season by hook or by crook, and generally they succeed. However, it is true that today the situation is a tough one, and could bring about the breakdown of agriculture.

The reasons are the atrocious disparity of prices between agricultural and industrial products, a severe shortage of credit resources, of spare parts, building materials, and metal. All this has a very negative effect on the situation.

[Solntsev] But how do you think private farming and the kolkhoz and sovkhoz systems, which are often derided as serfdom and slavery, should be balanced? It is known that there are kolkhozes and sovkhozes that work very well. What is your stance on this? Should they all be dispersed?

[Khlystun] This is out of the question. My basic philosophical principle, which I repeat all the time is: A person should be told of the possibilities facing him, and left to make his own choice. We envisage several forms: a joint stock company, a collective enterprise with a [words indistinct] form of property, an association of peasants' farms, a private farm, and a small agricultural cooperative. But, if a collective adopts a decision that the previous form of ownership, whether sovkhoz or kolkhoz, was good enough, then it has the right to preserve it. And no one has the right to apply administrative, psychological or moral pressure to somehow disperse this collective.

[Solntsev] Do you get any information that somewhere someone is dispersing kholkhozes by force, or do these things never happen in Russia?

[Khlystun] Such information exists, but these incidents are few and far between, and we correct them when we encounter them.

[Solntsev] What today blocks the final solution of the land question? I mean the possibility of buying and selling land.

[Khlystun] First, there is the limit set by the acting constitution, which is a 10-year moratorium on buying and selling of land. I think that this moratorium blocks the formation of a normal land market and the formation of normal market relations. And I am not talking about completely free buying and selling of land, but of creating a state-regulated land circulation which would meet both the needs of the people and ensure the normal participation of land in the production process.

[Solntsev] There is the claim that during the years of Soviet rule, the peasant class was destroyed, that they do not exist anymore, that these people have become backward and no longer have the peasant psychology. What is your opinion?

[Khlystun] I think that this is not completely true. Its even completely untrue. Even the first year of creating private farms showed that the peasant's enterprising spirit still existed.

Let me give you some examples: last year, more than 800 Russian farmers were trained abroad, and an absolute majority showed themselves to be really industrious owners. I have heard the most positive reactions about our people from Holland, Germany, and the United States. What is more, the work of many peasant farms testifies to the existence of peasant genetic roots, and they are making their appearance today.

[Solntsev] May I ask you a personal question?

[Khlystun] Of course.

[Solntsev] Is it difficult to be a minister?

[Khlystun] It is. I would not wish it on an enemy.

[Solntsev] But meanwhile, you have no intention of giving up your post?

[Khlystun] You can not back out once you have begun.

[Solntsev] Having occupied the high post of a minister, do you think that you have the complete information? I mean no offense to your aides, but do you think that you are being misinformed, that not all information reaches you?

[Khlystun] Not one of us is insured against being presented false information—whether maliciously or not. But usually we have a system of double-checks. We also get local information, both from our experts and through the press. We periodically check this information. Therefore, although some misconceptions might occur, I do not think that there is any absolutely false, distorted information.

[Solntsev] How optimistic is the minister of agriculture and the ministry itself about the perspective of our agrarian sector in the next year or two?

[Khlystun] The processes which have begun today—the transformation of forms of ownership, the development of new forms of farming and the appearance of a real owner—are very positive processes. But I am firmly convinced that if the state does not find additional sources to support the new and the old forms of farming, the countryside might find itself in an extremely difficult situation. I hope very much that the government takes into account all the difficulties and problems of agriculture and will find a way to assist its normal functioning.

If such a way is found, then during the first two years of the reform, 1992 and 1993, agriculture must stabilize as stage number one. Then, during 1994, we will have a real chance to start climbing up.

[Solntsev] Thank you, Viktor Nikolayevich.

Unemployment Expected To Reach 17 Million

LD2503211692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1421 GMT 25 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyubov Dunayeva]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Mar (TASS)—In Russia unemployment is growing and expected to reach 17 million by July, forced migration is increasing, and the number of people who are dissatisfied with their life jumped just at the beginning of 1992 from 61 to 81 percent. The increase in the population by the end of 1991 amounted to only 0.7 percent, which is the lowest birthrate in all postwar years. These facts were cited by Academician Gennadiy Osipov, director of the Institute of Socio-Political Research of the Russian Academy of Sciences, speaking at a scientific-practical conference "The Russian Federation at the Threshold of the 21st Century," which has finished its work. The academician sees the way out in the creation of a democratic space in which the highest value is man, and his interests have complete priority over national and all other interests. Otherwise, Gennadiy Osipov noted, the republics of the former USSR will slide into totalitarianism or authoritarianism thereby obstructing self-development and self-realization of the personality.

Poltoranin on Conservatives, Constitution Issues

LD2503223692 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1411 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Excerpts] There has been a meeting between Vice Premier Poltoranin, minister of information in the Russian Government, and journalists in the new Press House. It was attended by our correspondent Aleksandr Ruvinskiy.

[Ruvinskiy] Yes. First of all, I would like to talk about the Press House itself, because we journalists did not know until now that we had this House. It officially comes into operation on 1 April. It is a building on Pushkin Street. Formerly the Pavlov government had premises there and before that the State Construction Committee was there. It has now been put at the disposal of journalists. True, there will be some government services relating to information there, and the editorial offices of a number of publications, but not state publications. In addition, it is planned in the near future to set up a journalists' center—it will be possible to have consultations, there are typewriters for hire, video equipment and even motor vehicles for those who need them. There will be also everything journalists need for taking a rest. [passage omitted]

Well, the news conference was mainly devoted to the political situation in our republic. Mikhail Poltoranin talked about the directions in which government efforts are presently being concentrated. As I understand it, this means, first and foremost, dealing with the issues concerning privatization, so that our reforms might get going.

We also discovered this piece of news from the government's vice premier: At the joint session of the governments of Russia and Kazakhstan recently held in Uralsk, an agreement was reached to introduce free prices for oil in June. Now, Poltoranin thinks, oil is being sold at 5 percent, effectively, of the world price. At the same time, pipes for the oilfields are coming in from Ukraine at real world prices. Agreement was reached in Uralsk about setting up a special commission to resolve various disputed issues between Russia and Kazakhstan, and these continuously arise in the process of economic cooperation; contracts are not being met and some kind of solution has to be found. This commission will be working on that.

There was a great deal of discussion of the domestic political sitation. Poltoranin drew our attention to the work being done on the draft new Constitution and this is what he said, in part:

[Begin Poltoranin recording] This is what it is about: Either we build a state, a presidential republic, or we build a parliamentary republic. It happens that the draft constitution which has been prepared and is being submitted by a group of deputies envisages a parliamentary republic, that is, those power structures, the executive and presidential structures, which have started to be built would, under this constitution, lose their power; and the parliamentary structures—the organs of representative power, expressed first and foremost in the soviets—would acquire greater power. What the soviets are, what their powers are, you know, because it was under the soviets we got what we have today—and that happens to be the Rubicon which we have to cross. If the concept of a parliamentary republic wins out, then in my opinion there can be no strong Russian state and the reforms we have undertaken will obviously proceed with the greatest difficulty, if at all, and the results will be problematical.

You know just how conservative the soviets are today, in the main, throughout Russia. You know that people from the old party structures have dug themselves in, if I can put it like that, in the soviets, both revanchists and people of other types. Nevertheless, their main aim is not to give powers to the executive authorities today, not to allow privatization to be implemented on a broad scale, and not to allow the democratic reforms to advance. Thus, the destiny of Russia depends upon this to a considerable extent. I think we will find some kind of basis. [end recording]

[Ruvinskiy] So, from all that it is clear that there are differences between the government and the Supreme

Soviet on the constitution. True, it is not clear just how these differences will be resolved. At one and the same time, the chairman of the Constitutional Commission is also the head of the government, that is, Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin. Well, it is true that yesterday there was a session of this Constitutional Commission and Yeltsin did not take part in it.

Addresses Tatarstan, Media's Future

LD2503130592 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 25 Mar 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Russian Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Poltoranin held a meeting with journalists today. The first part of the news conference concerned general state problems. Poltoranin, as a true journalist, managed to touch on practically all the most important issues for Russia in the course of half an hour. He said that the Kiev meeting had failed to yield 70 percent of the desired results. But, setting as its aim to make the Commonwealth really strong, Russia is continuing active efforts in this direction. In Uralsk, the Russian and Kazakh governments elaborated several documents designed to integrate relations between our states more rapidly.

Another issue was Tatarstan. The deputy prime minister stressed that Shaymiyev would sign the federation treaty, but the Tatar example had done a disservice to the idea of the unity of Russia. About twenty Siberian oblasts are already talking about dissociation. Poltoranin stated quite unambiguously that the authorities will no longer close their eyes to the emergence of such tendencies. The government is simply obligated to do everything to prevent the disintegration of the state.

In the second half of the meeting the minister spoke about the mass media. Most important for us at Russian Television was his statement that a single information area was vitally important to the CIS, but if the other states of the Commonwealth reject such a model for television, Russia will fully take on the financing of Ostankino, and in this case, will most likely unite the two Russian televisions, or in any case, Poltoranin remarked vaguely, their economic parts. The reason for their unification will be the excessively high financial needs of Ostankino.

Khasbulatov's 'Economic Irresponsibility' Eyed

MK2503154592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Mar 92 p 2

[Mikhail Leontyev article under the "Opinion" rubric: "It Is Possible To Back Up Political Emission With Credit Emission. If You Have Installed Your Own Central Bank Chief"]

[Text] Last week Ruslan Imranovich Khasbulatov stated that "certain mass media" are conducting purposeful harassment of the Russian parliament and are doing this, as he sees it, on the instructions of the government. For this reason the speaker of parliament proposed to "carpet" Minister Poltoranin along with certain journalists and to explain to them how to interpret the Law on the Press. This prospect prompts a desire to give an explanation in advance, without waiting to be forcibly summoned.

Since it would be hard to harass a collective organ, not so much parliament as a whole as Ruslan Imranovich himself has been selected for harassment or, to be more precise, criticism.

What other than an order from the government could have prompted this attitude by the press to Khasbulatov?

The problem is not, it seems to me, the eccentric manners that the speaker of the Russian parliament is renowned for. It is the fact that Khasbulatov is consciously or unconsciously using his lofty powers with a degree of economic irresponsibility. And he is doing this at a time when several key institutions that implement economic policy, for example the Central Bank of Russia, are under parliament's control. And since the government, despite Khasbulatov's numerous attacks, has not yet resigned, the duty of these organs is to follow a policy that dovetails with the government's course. I would venture to claim that the structures subordinate to parliament are not following such a policy, and the decisive role in their failure to do so is being played personally by the head of the Russian Supreme Soviet.

The stubbornness with which R. Khasbulatov fought in defense of Central Bank Chairman Matyukhin is striking. Moreover, when the Supreme Soviet Presidium had an auditing check done on the Central Bank's activity, the people involved in the check were selected with such care that to this day it has proved impossible to find out who they are.

Matyukhin has now put his signature alongside that of Gaydar on the government memorandum on economic policy. Leaving aside the various opinions on the contents of this document, one cannot fail to note that it has a kind of logic which the Central Bank plays a decisive role in implementing. Matyukhin talks a lot about tight credit policy and seems to have increased the bank rate and cut credits to commercial banks. On the other hand, enterprises are hollering increasingly loudly that they are all in a sorry plight and that their debts to banks are growing at a tremendous rate. For example, according to my information, in Yekaterinburg Oblast alone, debt has risen from 9 to 50 billion rubles [R] in a month. It is hard to imagine that what we have here is the result of interest rates on loans that have become more expensive on the wishes of Matyukhin. It is more likely to be something else: The Central Bank is continuing to pump noncash monies into industry, enabling directors to pay meaningless wages and "barter" shrinking stocks of products, thus prompting a general wail of "give us cash." The

indebtedness of the bulk of enterprises is meanwhile reaching such astronomical proportions that the only remaining way out is to "write it off." Consequently government policy will collapse together with the government itself. Quod erat demonstrandum.

However, not agreeing with government policy and using one's position to oppose this policy are somewhat different things.

The transfer of our CIS friends' banks to correspondent relations with the Central Bank was widely publicized by the Russian Government and the Central Bank. It was intended that this measure would avert a flood of noncash credit emission to Russia; the Central Bank would keep tight control of the volume of credit emission by its foreign correspondents, just as it is doing with the commercial banks. However, it turned out that this control only extended to "registration," and consequently more than R35 billion "sovereign" rubles were dumped on Russia during the month of February. It would be interesting to know what Matyukhin has done with the "tough pro-Russian stance" that Ruslan Imranovich so lauded him for.

While Matyukhin has been looking after business at the Central Bank, Khasbulatov has been busy with political emissions on television screens, from the parliamentary rostrum, and during his numerous trips around the country, that is, he has been distributing political credits which some of the recipients can rely on in order to demand money credits.

When the "500 days" program was finally finished off for all to see a year ago, Ruslan Khasbulatov stated that Russia had its own quite unique economic program. On closer inspection, this program turned out to be the Filshin "140 billion" swap affair. Today, in my view, Khasbulatov is attempting to destabilize the Russian Government through Matyukhin, just as he did last year with the Union Government: The corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences Economics Department could not fail to be aware of the consequences of his own and Matyukhin's actions. It is not a question of whether this government is good or bad (like the old Pavlov government), the point is that the casualty in both cases is the national economy.

Stepankov Asks Rutskoy, Popov To Resign Posts

LD2503154692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1439 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow, 25 Mar (TASS)—Russian Procurator General Valentin Stepankov has sent written communications to Russian Federation Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, Moscow Mayor Gavriil Popov, and to Nikolay Travkin, the head of administration of Shakhovskiy rayon, Moscow oblast, raising the question of the need for them to resign from one of the posts they hold. Let us recall that Aleksandr Rutskoy simultaneously heads the People's Party of Free Russia; Gavriil Popov—the Russian Movement for Democratic Reforms; and Nikolay Travkin—the Democratic Party of Russia. The procurator general is proceeding from the decision of the Congress of Russian People's Deputies, which bans the combining of leading state offices with any other post.

Procurator To Question Gorbachev on CPSU

LD2503182392 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1600 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Reports have recently appeared in foreign and domestic news media alleging that the Procurator's Office has restricted the movements of former USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev. He has reportedly been forbidden to leave the country. The fact is, the investigatory group of the Russian Federation procurator general is conducting an investigation into the economic and financial activity of the CPSU. It has nothing directly to do with the so-called State Committee for the State of Emergency case.

Considerable documentary material has been collected on the financing of foreign communist parties by the CPSU. The majority of the former members of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee have already been questioned by investigators of the Russian Procurator's Office. There is also a need to conduct a number of investigatory actions regarding the former general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, precisely in this capacity and not as former president of the USSR. That is why the heads of the investigatory group of the Procurator's Office have sent a notification to Mikhail Gorbachev asking him to plan his schedule in such a way as to be in Moscow in April when the investigatory action regarding him is planned.

No 'Restrictive' Measures Taken

LD2503191992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1800 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] The press service of the Gorbachev Fund states:

It is well known that investigations are underway into the case of the CPSU's finances. Now, when the investigations are about to enter their final phase, the need arises—and this was reported previously—for Russia's procuracy workers to have a meeting with Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev.

In this connection, Gorbachev has had a conversation with Procurator General Stepankov, during which they agreed that such a meeting will take place in the very near future.

There is no question of any measures of a restrictive nature against Gorbachev. His planned trip to Japan will take place at the scheduled time.

Intelligence Services Agree To Cooperate

LD2503194992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1525 GMT 25 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Igor Peskov]

[Text] Moscow, 25 Mar (TASS)—An agreement on the main principles of cooperation among the intelligence services of the security bodies of the CIS member states will be signed in Alma-Ata in April. This was announced at a briefing today by Tatyana Samolis, press secretary of the director of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service.

Revealing something of the essence of the document, which already has been initialled, she pointed out that it contains, for instance, the renunciation of the pursuit of intelligence activity by the sides against one another. Tatyana Samolis said that, to coordinate Russia's intelligence activity with similar bodies of other states of the CIS, a special subunit already has been set up within the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service.

It was announced at the briefing that work is being completed presently on drafts of a law on the intelligence bodies of the Russian Federation. A commission recently set up in the Russian parliament has started monitoring intelligence activity, its budget, and its observance of legality and human rights.

'Increased CIA Activity' Seen

OW2503182692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1622 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The press secretary of the Russian foreign intelligence service Tatiyana Samolis said in a news conference Wednesday [25 March] that the service has formed a subdivision to coordinate its work with other Commonwealth States. Samolis said a law on Russian intelligence is being developed as well as an "agreement on the basic principles of cooperation with intelligence services of Commonwealth States". The document is expected to be signed in April.

In response to a question from an "INTERFAX" correspondent, Samolis said that the agreement will be signed by representatives of all intelligence services CIS nations.

Retired Major General Boris Solomatin, former head of the Soviet intelligence in Rome and also Kazakhstan, said at the news conference that he is alarmed by increased CIA activity in the former USSR. He also condemned his former colleagues who betrayed the intelligence organs.

Intelligence Recruitment Plans To Change

PM2003164992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 3

[Report by Gennadiy Charodeyev: "Foreign Intelligence Service Seeks Talent"]

[Text] Yevgeniy Primakov, leader of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service [FIS], addressed students and teachers from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations 17 March.

Appealing "partly to future colleagues," he noted that he intends to do away with the previous flawed practice of selecting cadres for the intelligence service. He said that future intelligence officers were previously selected as follows: After long checks and abstract conversations, cadre officers promised students that if they agreed, they would be told what they were to do in a few months. The Russian intelligence service is now extremely interested in an influx of young talented specialists wanting to work for the good of the homeland, with no thought of gaining particular material benefits.

Possibly for this purpose, a special course will open for students on the activity of the Russian intelligence service as of the next academic year at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations. Active professionals from Primakov's service will hold seminars and give lectures. According to Colonel Yuriy Kabaladze, head of the Russian FIS Bureau for Public and Press Relations, if the intelligence service receives even 25 competent specialists willing to work after the Moscow State Institute of International Relations special course, intelligence officers will start giving similar courses throughout Moscow....

The head of the FIS made a number of really sensational announcements. He mentioned the well known articles printed a few years ago in our central newspapers about AIDS supposedly originating from secret Pentagon laboratories. According to Ye. Primakov, the articles exposing U.S. scientists' "crafty" plot against mankind were fabricated in KGB offices. In revenge for this, the U.S. special services cooked up their own version of the attack on the Pope in the early eighties, accusing the Soviet Union of organizing this terrorist act.

Our foreign intelligence service, its leader went on to say, has the impression that the ballyhoo in the foreign press over radioactive raw materials and nuclear weapons components being taken out of the CIS countries is an orchestrated campaign. Ye. Primakov voiced the supposition that the aim of this campaign is to show the world the hopelessness of the system of storing fissionable materials and other elements used to manufacture nuclear weapons. Some people are trying to make public opinion conclude that international control must be established over this sphere. "However, for all the chaos in our country, radioactive raw materials and nuclear weapons are under vigorous guard."

In Ye. Primakov's opinion, certain states' special services may be behind this. How else can one regard the fact that the articles about the sale of a consignment of uranium-235, a small amount of heavy water, and the disappearance of warheads from Kazakhstan appeared at virtually the same time in a fairly coordinated way?

The director of the Russian FIS was asked about relations with CIS special services. He gave the following reply:

"We constantly exchange information. This enables us to always keep abreast of the situation at local level. I do not think that we will start to set up our own agents' network on CIS territory."

One student asked: Will the FIS continue to work under the Foreign Ministry "umbrella"?

"There is a so-called 'legal' intelligence service worldwide," Ye. Primakov said, "working under cover of various institutions and organizations. We are no exception. The intelligence service cannot deprive itself of this opportunity. At the same time I want to stress that at the moment our presence in foreign missions is being drastically cut back."

A few Russian and foreign correspondents present at the meeting at the Moscow State Institute for Foreign Relations regarded as sensational Ye. Primakov's announcement that the service he heads has no reliable information regarding our nuclear scientists' involvement in developing nuclear weapons in other countries.

Primakov Seeks 'Clever Guys'

MK1903120592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Mar 92 p 2

[Aleksey Varenov report under the "Initiative" rubric: "Is Moscow State Institute of International Relations Moonlighting as an Intelligence School? The Foreign Intelligence Service Has Organized a Special Course at the Former Elite Higher Educational Institution"]

[Text] The presentation of a new study course "Intelligence in the Modern World" was held 17 March at the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry MGIMO [Moscow State Institute of International Relations]. The first lecture was delivered by Academician Yevgeniy Primakov, chief of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service.

In world practice this phenomenon is entirely normal. Specialists on international relations should know the place of intelligence in the system for defending states' national interests and should have some idea about the means and methods of its work. However, Academician Primakov went further. He did not hide the fact that the meeting also had a "applied character," and openly invited all those who so wished to come and work in intelligence after they had graduated from the institute.

"Recruitment for our service used to be conducted in the following manner: Our cadres would meet with students and begin checking them out. Then, once a candidate had gone through this clearance procedure, he would eventually be told: If you agree, in a few months' time we will tell you what you will be doing. This was how a person came to work in intelligence. This is not the best way. We have to select people who want to work in intelligence and consciously desire to do so. Through optional courses like this one, through this sort of process of familiarization, people can come to us if they want. We will then check them out, there will be some degree of winnowing out, but nonetheless we will get the people we want."

Not a great deal was said about the study course itself. Roughly outlined, it will consist of meetings with current intelligence officers, analysts, and specialists in various fields, who should give a more detailed picture of intelligence activity, the principles of the work, etc. This will clearly be part of the political science course and not just a series of descriptive lectures. Yuriy Kabaladze, chief of the Foreign Intelligence Service Public Relations Department, hopes that the students themselves will name topics that interest them and say whom they would like to invite. "At the same time we will check how secret our activity is," the country's top intelligence operative noted.

Students and—a surprise to the intelligence officers—journalists asked the chief of intelligence and Yuriy Kabaladze and Foreign Intelligence Service Press Secretary Tatyana Samolis, who were accompanying him, a number of questions. Primakov announced that the Foreign Intelligence Service is not just interested in students who are studying international affairs. Foreign intelligence needs talented people trained in economics, physics, chemistry, and engineering. Will it be possible to study courses of this kind in other higher educational institutes? According to Yuriy Kabaladze, "if as a result of our seminars about 25 people apply to us or express a desire to work in intelligence, then we will institute courses like this one all over Moscow."

But for the time being the "young intelligence officers' school" has only been opened at MGIMO. There is a history of relations between this higher educational institute and the special services. The intelligence service has given the institute a number of teachers, and the institute has given the intelligence service a number of its graduates. Last spring superagent George Blake gave his first public speech at MGIMO. And now Academician Primakov has turned up and said: We need clever guys for the intelligence service...

Traitors Sent To Reactivated 'Perm-35'

OW1903014392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1403 GMT 18 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Perm branch of the historical, educational and human rights association "Memorial" has protested

to the regional council against "the restoration of 'Perm-35' special penitentiary zone for those convicted of 'high treason' under Article 64 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation."

Co-chairman of Memorial's Perm branch Vladimir Vinichenko says the Russian interior ministry plans to use "Perm-35" with the same purpose as before.

By a decree of the Russian president, in February the last 10 political prisoners were pardoned and the zone became an ordinary penitentiary.

Vinichenko says two people convicted under Article 64 have been sent to there since then. One of them, 28-year-old Aleksandr Zavidin of the Ivanovo region, had already served a term there. He was then accused of murdering a fellow soldier, deserting from the army, stealing arms, fleeing to Iran and spying for its benefit. In 1989 the court sentenced him to death, but soon softened the punishment and sent him to "Perm-35". The other prisoner, 32- year-old ex-Air Force officer Gennadiy Prutskov from Siberia, was recently convicted of an attempt to provide the German Embassy with data on strategic aviation in the Far East. "According to an interior ministry instruction, all convicts under Article 64 should be held separately from other criminals and "Perm-35" was considered the only appropriate place for them", Vinichenko says.

Parliamentary Factions Urge Yeltsin To Resign

OW2603125692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2030 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At the 6th Congress of Russian People's Deputies, the New Russia Alliance of Parliamentary Factions will urge the adoption of a new constitution, Co-Chairman of the Popular Party of Russia Oleg Borodin and Co-Chairman of the Russian Social-Liberal Party Vladimir Filin announced at a news conference on Wednesday [25 March].

At the same time, the alliance of the parties which also include the Peasants' Party, the Social Democratic Party, the Social-Liberal Association and the Young Russia Movement, believe that Boris Yeltsin should resign. "If he does not, the democrats will lose the battle with the opposition," said Borodin. In his opinion, the coalition of the communists and patriots has a chance of winning the majority at the congress. To keep the state ship afloat, the president should throw off the ballast. To begin with, he said, Yeltsin should accept the resignation of the most negatively assessed figures, such as Gennadiy Burbulis, Galina Starovoytova, and Yegor Gaydar. This will ease tensions in society and ensure further movement without changing the essence of the reforms.

The New Russia insists on early elections at all levels. "The leaders which do not enjoy any social support will be replaced by people trusted by society," said Vladimir Filin.

'Democratic Russia' Calls For Yeltsin Support

OW2503183892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1622 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The coordinating council of the "Democratic Russia" movement sent telegrams to its regional departments asking them to delegate 5 people to attend the meeting of Russian citizens. The meeting is planned for April 4 in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses. In particular the telegram says that "the leadership of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation and fractions of former communists headed by Ruslan Khasbulatov plan to relieve Boris Yeltsin of powers needed to realize economic reforms and to establish a government which satisfies the military industrial complex". The regional divisions of "Democratic Russia" were advised to take action and pass a resolution showing support for Yeltsin's economic reforms.

Bloc Urges CPSU Officials Barred From Office

LD2603091992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0043 GMT 26 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Shevel]

[Text] Moscow, 25 March [date as received] (ITAR-TASS)—Leaders of the "New Russia" bloc of parties have asked the Russian president to bar former party officials who worked in CPSU raykoms and higher from occupying state office. This is just one of the points of an appeal which they handed to Boris Yeltsin during his meeting with representatives of political parties and movements on 24 March.

Journalists were told by the leaders of this bloc at a news conference today that the Russian leadership's "incorrect cadre policy" poses a serious danger to the reforms.

In the opinion of the news conference participants, it would be better for the success of the reforms if Boris Yeltsin "distanced himself" from the government and renewed the cabinet.

The "New Russia" bloc contains six parties and movements of democratic tendency.

Profile of Yeltsin Adviser Starovoytova

PM2403140692 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 21 Mar 92 p 3

[O. Tekhmenev report: "Our Thatcher—15 Little-Known Facts from the Life of Galina Starovoytova"]

[Text] 1. No secret: The Karabakh problem is Galina Vasilyevna's "hobby horse." But the first time she visited this erstwhile vacation resort in the Transcaucasus was in the early 1980's, as part of a Soviet-American project for studying longevity. At that time, G. Starovoytova was investigating the ethno-psychological aspects of this problem.

2. Back at the dawn of perestroyka in 1987, when Galina Vasilyevna was working at the Leningrad branch of the USSR Academy of Sciences Presidium's Center for the Study of Interethnic Relations, her book devoted to a study of the position of ethnic minorities in the cities was published. G. Starovoytova examined this problem using the example of Leningrad's Tatar and Armenian communities, and repeatedly stressed the huge significance of a strong "friendship of USSR peoples" in her work.

Incidentally, her duties as a deputy, which take up so much of her time, do not prevent the adviser on interethnic problems from engaging in academic activity. This year, the Center for the Study of Interethnic Relations, having switched to Russian Academy of Sciences jurisdiction, has issued several anthologies. One of them, entitled "What Is To Be Done?," contains an article by Galina Vasilyevna.

3. Some time later, an action group of USSR people's deputies and supporters of democracy, which, as well as G. Starovoytova, included A. Sakharov, Ye. Bonner, and L. Batkin, submitted to M. Gorbachev the idea of holding a referendum in the border regions of Armenia and Azerbaijan, and the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast, on the question: "Who wants to live where?" The point is that at that precise moment the "Gyuycha" Society was formed in Baku, demanding autonomy for Azerbaijanis living on Armenian territory (around 200,000 people, mainly living near Lake Sevan.) The group went to Yerevan and Baku. Unfortunately, local authorities did not support this idea. A week after the delegations had returned to Moscow, Azerbaijanis began to be deported from Armenia.

4. Galina Vasilyevna, never having spoken on Azerbaijan television up to then, actually gave an interview to its correspondent Chingiz Mustafayev a month ago. The conversation, which lasted approximately two hours, was broadcast almost in full. Galina Vasilyevna handled herself well, only stumbling once when the correspondent asked a highly tactless question: "How much do you earn in rubles, and how much in freely convertible currency?" The president's adviser said that she does not answer impertinent questions.

5. On the subject of modesty. Once, during a news conference, G. Starovoytova said: "Until I was nominated as a candidate for the position of deputy, I was a modest woman. Since then, in order to succeed, I have had to behave anything but modestly...."

6. Many of G. Starovoytova's capable aides have gone on to make a name for themselves. Hence, Fedor Shelov-Kovedyayev, who was once Galina Vasilyevna's agent at the elections in Yerevan, is now Russian deputy foreign minister. And Artur Mkrtchyan, former staffer at the Center for the Study of Interethnic Relations, became chairman of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Supreme Soviet.

By the way, in the Baku Television interview G. Starovoytova said that she also has proteges in Azerbaijan, but for reasons of security she will not name them.

7. With her election as a people's deputy, Galina Vasilyevna also assumed a peripatetic role and visited a great many countries. In terms of trips abroad, Starovoytova has surpassed even such elected representatives of the people as G. Popov, A. Sobchak, S. Stankevich, and others. On several occasions she was the Russian president's personal representative at various foreign forums. During the August coup, she was on the shores of misty Albion and alarmed many by declaring that she was setting up a government in exile. The fact is that at that time at least two "reserve" Russian governments were being created: one in Yekaterinburg under Oleg Lobov's leadership, and one in Paris led by Andrey Kozyrev.

8. During her recent trip to Paris, according to Galina Vasilyevna, a funny thing happened to her and Jacques Chirac, mayor of that city and former French premier. The president's adviser and the mayor made a bet based on G. Starovoytova's claim that before long the Russian economy would pick up. The terms are as follows: If the lady is right, then the noble Chirac will take her to the best restaurant in Paris, but if, to our misfortune, Monsieur Chirac is right, then Galina Vasilyevna will have to take him for a meal in Moscow's best restaurant.

9. Abroad, it has become clear that, although Galina Vasilyevna is a democrat, at heart she is a conservative. At a European Democratic Union conference she spoke of her dream of setting up a real conservative party in Russia. There is only one problem, she says—the word "conservative" in Russia is associated with the CPSU, and at the moment is tantamount to a swear word.

10. Being dissatisfied with the Supreme Soviet's hostility toward Gaydar's government in January, Galina Vasilyevna suggested "dissolving" parliament. But in general, she says, she is a highly disciplined person who "always obeys the president's orders."

11. Returning to the Nagorno-Karabakh problem, it has to be said that the adviser on interethnic relations has her own opinion on this question. Once she noted that "even if Armenia did not exist, Azerbaijan would still have to deal with the Karabakh problem."

12. It would be interesting to know: What do other prominent people think of Galina Vasilyevna? At a recent joint conference of the People's Party of Free Russia (Rutskoy's party) and the Democratic Party of Russia, Nikolay Ilich Travkin asked: "Why is it that

when I speak of the Crimea's right to self-determination and its return to Russia this is imperialist thinking, but when Galina Vasilyevna Starovoytova fights for Karabakh's transfer to Armenia this is a struggle for the peoples' right to self-determination?"

13. It is no secret that Galina Vasilyevna is concerned about many issues in our life, including military questions. When rumors abounded on her imminent appointment to the post of Russian defense minister, G. Starovoytova, having noted that many high military officials consult with her on strategic questions, said, however: "I am not considering myself for this post—rather, it is the president, but I hope that such a burden is not placed on a woman's shoulders, as our social consciousness is not sufficiently mature to place a person in a skirt at the head of the military department."

Admittedly, in a 28 February television interview she announced that she probably would accept this post (after all, Finland's forces are commanded by a charming woman—it makes no odds), though she would have to ask her mother.

14. The inhabitants of St. Petersburg know better than anyone that G. Starovoytova is a woman of principle. Once, Galina Vasilyevna fought for the city inhabitants' right to their land, when the St. Petersburg island of Novaya Gollandiya was, in her words, too readily leased out to the French and the island's reconstruction affected numerous buildings which are architectural monuments.

Last year, Galina Vasilyevna fought for the Petersburgers' rights on railroad transport. When it was proposed that she travel from St. Petersburg to Moscow in a public car, the president's adviser sent an irate note to the chief of St. Petersburg railroads pointing out that the majority of train tickets are sold under the counter at exorbitant prices. And the good places are snapped up by all kinds of thieves and criminals.

15. After the "Statement of the Six" against B. Yeltsin and his team, one of the "six"—Svetlana Goryacheva—burst into tears and complained that her family had been subjected to a psychological war, and that her 13-year-old son was being persecuted. Starovoytova coldbloodedly noted that there had also been attacks on her husband and son but that she is not shedding any tears over it.

Tatar Referendum Observers Allege Violations

LD2503161392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Report by correspondent Ye. Revelskaya; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] According to the latest information on the referendum in Tatarstan, a total of 61.4 of republican residents spoke in favor of a sovereign Tatarstan. Democratic Party of Russia [DPR] observers said after returning to Moscow that these figures were forged:

[Begin DPR Deputy Chairman I. Roytman recording] We have specific facts about Kazan and several other towns indicating a difference in data of at least of several percent between what was published and what was announced [zayavleno]. [end recording]

Observers were particularly alarmed by the voting results in Tatarstan's rural areas, which claimed that there was a 100 percent turnout and that 100 percent of those taking part in the voting said "yes." Attempts by Russian observers to visit rural areas met with strong opposition from the Tatar side. On 19 March, observers in a car trying to cross the Kama River were arrested.

[Begin Moscow DPR Chairman Poluektov recording] They were told that if they tried and crossed the Kama River, they would end up under the ice covering it. [end recording]

At 1600 on 20 March, observers in another car were arrested in Kazan near the Tatarstan hotel. In both cases they were detained under the pretext of carrying drugs. All the facts about violations during the referendum will be submitted to the Russian Supreme Soviet.

Passage of Kaliningrad Resolution Delayed

OW1603001392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1638 GMT 15 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] By delaying the passage of a resolution on additional measures to develop the free economic zone of the Kaliningrad region, the government risks bringing about serious consequences, Sergey Kozlov, director general of the Economic Zone Development Center called "Yantar", told IF's [INTERFAX's] correspondent.

The draft resolution prepared by the region's administration was submitted to the government more than a month ago, Kozlov said. It provides for cutting corporate profit tax, vesting the administration with powers to grant export licenses required to repay the region's imports.

According to Kozlov, the absence of common borders with the CIS and customs duties levied on goods imported into the region have drastically worsened Kaliningrad's economic situation which inevitably results in local residents losing confidence in the Russian leadership.

Lack of Help for Chernobyl Victims Criticized

PM2503085192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 20 Mar 92

[Video report by A. Dadyko, A. Gorzhevskiy; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Dadyko] Chernobyl. Alas, today we treat the tragedy of six years ago as something that happened in bygone days. It is a tragedy that hundreds of people are

still paying for with their lives. What do we know about Chernobyl? Possibly nothing, if what Vyacheslav Grishin, president of the All-Russian Chernobyl Association, says, comes as a revelation to us. He said that Russia is second only to Belarus in terms of the seriousness of the consequences it has to bear, that 16 western oblasts of Russia have been subjected to colossal doses of radiation, and that, strictly speaking, the population should be evacuated from the contaminated territories. As far as the 300,000 Russians who have been involved in eliminating the aftermath of the accident are concerned, only one of the numerous provisions on benefits applies—free travel. Admittedly, even this state act of charity is of no use to the 11,000 bed-ridden invalids. In six years no state program has been drawn up for the elimination of the consequences of the accident. So what is the main demand that is now being put forward by Chernobyl workers to the government and the helpless, incompetent State Committee for Chernobyl?

[V. Grishin, president of the All-Russian Chernobyl Association] To organize work to implement the—I hesitate to say program; in fact there is no program—the measures that must be carried out immediately in order to save—and I do not hesitate to use that word—to save everyone who fell sick as a result of the Chernobyl disaster.

Ministry, Oblast Appointments Reported

PM1603110592 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Mar 92 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Appointments"]

[Text] By a decree of the Russian Federation president, the Russian Federation Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources Committee for Geology and Mineral Resources has been transformed into the Committee for Geology and the Use of Subterranean Resources [Ispolozvaniye Nedr] under the Russian Federation Government. Viktor Petrovich Orlov has been appointed chairman of the committee.

By a ruling of the Russian Federation Government a General Consulate of the Kingdom of Denmark has been opened in St. Petersburg with St. Petersburg, Leningrad Oblast, and the Republic of Karelia as the consular district. The Russian Federation reserves the right and opportunity to open in the future on a reciprocal basis its own consular mission on Danish territory.

By the Russian president's 3 December 1991 decree no. 244, Anatoliy Ivanovich Lisitsyn has been appointed acting head of the Yaroslavl Oblast administration.

A complex of buildings and installations at No. 5 Chistyy Alley, Moscow, has been transferred to the ownership of the Moscow Patriarchate. The decree was signed by Boris Yeltsin.

PRAVDA To Reappear Thrice Weekly

PM2503165592 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 26 Mar 92 p 3

[ITAR-TASS report: "PRAVDA Returns to Readers"]

[Text] PRAVDA will resume publication in the very near future; the next issue should be published 28 March, the paper's chief editor Gennadiy Seleznev said in an interview published yesterday in the Polish paper TRYBUNA.

We obtained bank credit on an entirely commercial basis, which should suffice for the publication of three issues of PRAVDA per week, he continued. Unfortunately, because of the confusion that reigns in our banking system, the money has not yet been credited to our publisher's account, and he will not start printing the paper again until he has the money.

What pains us is the lack of solidarity on the part of journalists, G. Seleznev went on. Some publications, above all KURANTY, were patently delighted to see us in difficulty. Television chief Yegor Yakovlev banned the broadcast of an interview with me. Our populace learned of PRAVDA's fate from Western radio stations' broadcasts.

Asked whether PRAVDA would still be an opposition paper, G. Seleznev replied in the affirmative. We were opposed from the outset to Gaydar's version of economic reform, which is a rehash of the Polish reform.

Weekly Newspaper Issue 'Could Be the Last'

LD2603101692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2115 GMT 25 Mar 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A correspondent from the SEVERO-ZAPAD agency has learned from the editorial offices of the weekly newspaper ARGUMENTY I FAKTY that today's issue could be the last. And even this issue is coming out only because it is being financed by the Russian Government, because it is devoted to the Russian Federation's new constitution. Even the newspaper with the largest circulation in the country has not escaped financial difficulties. Let me remind you that ARGUMENTY I FAKTY's print run is 26,453,780 copies.

RIA 'Novosti' Property Reassigned to State

PM2603101792 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 25 Mar 92 p 1

[Untitled "own information" report under general heading: "The Press"]

[Text] Gennadiy Burbulis signed an ordinance on 23 March: "ITAR is to transfer the fixed capital, equipment, archive documents, movie and video materials, and other property, as well as the premises that were used by the television company and the technical center of the former RIA 'Novosti' to the books of the All-Russian State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company."

Privatizing Press Distribution Talks Held

PM2503121192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Solovyev: "Bureaucratic Fuss Over Newspaper Kiosks"]

[Text] In Vologda the leaders of the Ministry of Communications and "Rospechat" [Russian administration for the distribution of printed matter] are discussing questions of the sector's privatization.

Deputy Communications Minister B. Butenko admitted that the Communications Committee has deliberately waited for "the publishing houses to begin to die" in order to dictate new rates for its services to them. But in hiking prices for its services the ministry is stealing from itself: People are rejecting its services and newspapers are not selling at the higher price.

To save itself, the Ministry of Communications has decided to monopolize subscription to publications, refusing even "Rospechat" the right to do this.

The "Rospechat" enterprises do not like these restrictions on their activity. G. Bobkova, director of the Vologda "Rospechat" enterprise, said that it is more advantageous for the Vologda people to deal with the IZVESTIYA concern and urged her counterparts from other regions to join the IZVESTIYA association, which has opportunities to process and deliver printed matter.

"We concluded a direct contract with the publishing house in February and the prices picture at the kiosks altered drastically. When IZVESTIYA came through the TsRPA [Central Retail Subscription Agency] it was sold for 3 rubles 39 kopeks a copy. Now it costs 1 ruble 23 kopeks. It is the same with NEDELYA: It used to cost 4 rubles 82 kopeks, now it costs 2 rubles 33 kopeks."

But it looks as though the ministry bureaucrats do not like this turn of events. They are militating for the speediest privatization of "Rospechat" kiosks. But good intentions are immediately resulting in dictatorship. A. Lipatov, in charge of privatization questions at the ministry, stated:

"Whatever means of privatization you choose, you must understand that there can only be one founder—the ministry. Only the ministry will give you a corporate body...."

And so the ministry's envoys are defending privatization under monopolist tutelage while the "Rospechat" enterprises are seeking the right to the independent creation of joint-stock companies and direct cooperation with the publishing houses.

Publications Registration Hinges on Resolution

MK2503132192 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Mar 92 p 1

[Andrey Poleshchuk report under the "Press" rubric: "Registration of Mass Media Frozen in Russia. Does Press and Information Minister Poltoranin Know Anything About It?"]

[Text] The staffers at the Russian Press and Information Ministry who deal with the registration of new mass media have been sitting around without anything to do. They registered their last publication 19 December last year, and on 27 December the new Law on the Press came out, which entered into force 8 February 1992 immediately after its publication in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA. After that the registration of new mass media was suspended—pending the adoption of a special Russian Government resolution on a new procedure for collecting the registration levy.

The old procedure defined by RSFSR Council of Ministers Resolution No 266 dated 27 July 1990 envisaged paying state duties into republic and local budgets, with amounts varying between 500 rubles [R] (for the registration of children's publications) and R5,000 (for television and radio programs). The new resolution, according to the people who drafted it in the Press and Information Ministry, is basically no different from the previous one, being essentially a commentary on the relevant article in the new Law on the Press. Admittedly, it now specifically stipulates concessions for registering so-called "publications of a cultural and educational character." However, the criteria for clearly determining whether or not such and such a newspaper (magazine or program) is "cultural and educational" do not figure in the resolution. So the future of the concessions could depend wholly on the stance adopted by the official processing the application and the persistence of the founders themselves.

The resolution on the new procedure for collecting the registration levy was ready just a few days after publication of the Law on the Press. Whereupon the sad lot of many official documents befell it: On being dispatched to the Russian Finance Ministry for agreement, it got lost there among all the other papers. It took a while to hunt for the lost document, and then it had to be agreed with other lofty organs—the Russian Justice Ministry and the Russian Government apparatus. The resolution finally came to rest on the desk of Press and Information Minister (and Vice Premier) Mikhail Poltoranin. It is now down to him personally to decide how fast members of the Russian Government can acquaint themselves with the document, approve it, and thereby lift the

moratorium on the registration of new mass media which are currently forming a long line behind the longed-for document.

Meanwhile we get the impression that Minister Poltoranin is unaware or—snowed under by new files—has forgotten that registration has been suspended. At any rate, memos with a handwritten resolution by Poltoranin to speed up the registration of such and such a new publication periodically arrive at the appropriate department of the Press and Information Ministry.

Poll Shows Yeltsin Supported Despite Hardships

OW2103135392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1237 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] People in the Russian Federation still believe in Boris Yeltsin's ability to carry out radical reforms and ensure a turn for the better in their living standards. Witness the results of a poll conducted in different Russian cities by the Institute of Socioeconomic Research of Russia's Academy of Sciences in late February-early March. 602 people were questioned.

When asked: "If you had to go to the polls once again, which of the old presidential candidates would you prefer?", 41.8% of respondents said "Boris Yeltsin". 8.0% would prefer Aman Tuleyev, 6.7% Nikolay Ryzhkov, 5.3% Vadim Bakatin, 4.4% Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, and 1.4% Albert Makashov.

According to the pollsters, since 31.6% of those questioned were undecided, the number of votes in favor of B. Yeltsin rises to 60.9%. These data almost conform to the results of presidential elections held in Russia last summer, on June 12. At the same time the poll showed that the people of Russia don't link prospects for an improvement in their lives directly with what the authorities do. When asked: "On what do you set your hopes for improving your living standards?", 66.7% of respondents said "on my own resourcefulness", and only 5.5% said "on Yeltsin's team". 15.9% rely on support from their family, and 8.5% on a change of government.

It's noteworthy that 13.5% of respondents lost all hopes for an improvement in their lives.

Only 38 Percent Can Afford 'Essential' Foods

MK2403142792 Moscow Teleradioveshchatelnaya Kompaniya Moskva Television in Russian 1545 GMT 21 Mar 92

[From the "Moskovskiy Teletayp" newscast]

[Text] Here are a few figures. Only 38.9 percent of those questioned in a public opinion poll carried out in March by the Russian Academy of Sciences Sociopolitical Research Institute can afford to pay for essential foodstuffs. Of those polled, 56.9 percent said that they already have to deny themselves many things. Almost 4 percent of the respondents admitted that they sometimes have to go hungry. Every ninth respondent with a family income of less than 1,000 rubles a month falls within the latter category. One third of those polled approved of the current economic policy of changing to a market economy, nearly half opposed it, while the remainder could not give a specific response.

Sociologist Predicts 'Social Explosions'

PM2603112092 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Mar 92 First Edition p 2

[Report by Sergey Panasenko: "Unless Theft and Corruption Are Stopped..."]

[Text] The government's reforms are doomed unless it is able to conquer corruption and surmount the growing apathy among citizens, Academician Gennadiy Osipov, director of the Russian Academy of Sciences Sociopolitical Studies Institute, asserts. He bases this on the results of extensive sociological studies conducted by the institute's staffers last year and this year.

He calls the fact that the majority of Russia's citizens support the reforms the government's first success and, so far, its only one. At the same time, however, compared with 1989, there has been a doubling of the number of people who would prefer to observe the reforms' successes from abroad: These now make up one-fifth of the able-bodied population. The number of people who do not even hope for this is also growing: The number of suicides has surpassed 60,000 a year, and there were, in all, 1 million attempted suicides.

Everything is exacerbated by the fact that, according to recent studies, the base on which Russia's present leaders can rely is becoming narrower. Thus, 60.4 percent of those polled at the beginning of March pin their hope on Boris Yeltsin (the undisputed leader), 33.5 percent on Aleksandr Rutskoy, and 27.1 percent on Ruslan Khasbulatov. The position of Yegor Gaydar (19.7 percent) and Sergey Shakhray (13.6 percent) is still more difficult. The following did not get above 10 percent: Gavriil Popov (8.0 percent), Vladimir Zhirinovskiy (5.0 percent), and Gennadiy Burbulis (3.5 percent).

On the whole, according to Osipov, many people perceive the processes in Russia as a destruction of statehood and as a legal vacuum. For some people this becomes a call for criminal actions—hence the unprecedented flowering of lawless actions, including in the economy. For others it is a favorable moment to satisfy political ambitions—this gives rise to numerous national-separatist trends threatening to tear Russia to pieces. Yet others cease to believe in the possibility of a normal existence, and people lose heart.

For the time being only a very few people are really ready and see a means of taking their destiny into their own hands, and, unfortunately, the Russian Government's actions dictated by abstract economic logic are not doing too much to help increase the numbers of such people.

According to the assessments of the Sociopolitical Studies Institute and according to the institute director himself, the option of an organized coup in the country is unlikely, but spontaneous revolts and senseless, destructive social explosions are perfectly likely.

Gennadiy Osipov considers the greatest importance of sociology to be the fact that it shows that there are no solutions in the economy that do not have a definite and perfectly "calculable" social price. Therefore the liberalization of prices and privatization, just like any other reforming step, must be weighed not only on the scales of macroeconomic theory but also on the scales of short-term and long-term social consequences.

"The most awful threat now facing Russia," Academician Osipov, director of the Sociopolitical Studies Institute, repeats yet again, "is disintegration. Unless the government stops theft and corruption, the country will perish sooner than might be expected."

Poll Shows Areas in Need of Financial Support

OW2303082092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0702 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Which areas of society are in greatest need of financial support from social organizations and charity funds? Sociologists from the National Public Opinion Studies Center (VCIOM) posed this question to 1,548 people in the Russian Federation.

The "Data" agency says the results looked like this: [unit of measurement not specified by INTERFAX]

1. Public health 57
2. Elderly and disabled 56
3. School education 49
4. Assistance to low income families 41
5. Culture, art 23
6. Science 13
7. Higher education 11
8. Restoration cultural monuments 9
9. General recreation and sports 6
10. Native arts and crafts 4

One in 50 was undecided.

Margin of error was 3%

Ideas for Securing 1992 Harvest Expressed

OW2503090092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0809 GMT 25 Mar 92

["Viewpoint" feature: "How To Secure Harvest-92?"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to the Data news agency, an opinion poll by the National Public Opinion Studies Center March 14-15 among 1057 respondents in Russia asked what should be done in the first place in order to secure the harvest of 1992.

34% believe urgent aid to kolkhozes and sovkhozes should be organized.

21% said it is necessary to dissolve kolkhozes and sovkhozes and to make land private property.

35% think both measures are needed according to circumstances.

The rest were undecided.

Margin of error - 3%.

Supreme Soviet

Draft Constitution, President's Powers Debated

PM2603105792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Mar 92 First Edition p 1

[Parliamentary Observer Robert Minasov report under the "Committees and Commissions" rubric: "Debates Surrounding the President's Powers"]

[Text] A plenary session of the Constitutional Commission chaired by R. Khasbulatov was held at the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium Hall of Sessions yesterday (24 March). The session examined the question "On Introducing the Draft Russian Federation Constitution (Finalized Text) for Examination by the Sixth Congress of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation."

In his opening remarks Supreme Soviet Chairman Khasbulatov gave an optimistic assessment of the present state of the draft of this most important document. He noted that the three stages of initialing of the Federal Treaty had been successfully surmounted, largely as a result of the understanding achieved among republics, krays, oblasts, autonomous formations, and the center.

Oleg Rumyantsev, executive secretary of the Constitutional Commission, then delivered a report "On Consideration of Proposals and Comments on the Draft Constitution of the Russian Federation and the Procedure for Discussing the Draft at the Congress." He dwelled on those comments and proposals received from various parliamentary factions, the chambers of the Supreme Soviet, representatives of republics within Russia, krays, and oblasts, and individual deputies which, in his opinion, could help improve the content of the draft document and reported that agreement had been reached, in particular, with the "Smena—New Policy" faction on the question of the powers of the president, government, and Supreme Soviet.

This is perhaps one of the most complex issues. The "Smena—New Policy" faction was insisting that the Supreme Soviet have the right to make a decision on the dismissal of the whole government. However, the

working party drawing up the draft submitted a counter-proposal granting the right to dismiss an individual official, but not the government in toto. Otherwise, it will be necessary to grant the president—as a counter-balance—the right to dissolve parliament, which could have serious consequences.

The working party agreed with the "Smena" faction to word the provision as follows: "A simple majority of parliament, rather than a two-thirds majority, is necessary to decide on the dismissal of the chairman of the government."

In general the "president-government" topic was paid the greatest attention. Commission member Yuriy Slobodkin, a leader of the Russian Communist Workers' Party, proposed abolishing altogether the institution of the presidency in our country and switching to a collective form of management. He engaged in a long discussion with Khasbulatov, arguing the need to introduce a provision into the draft that the Constitution protect a socialist society.

It should be noted that quite a few members of the Constitutional Commission revealed a clear desire to limit the powers of the president to the utmost. Vyacheslav Lyubimov, for example, proposed that the head of state be deprived of the right to declare a referendum, that right passing solely to the remit of the Supreme Soviet.

But Khasbulatov asked Lyubimov not to press that proposal. At the same time the Supreme Soviet chairman did state that "it is necessary to raise the status of the president to that of head of state, but he can in no circumstances be head of government."

Nikolay Ryabov recommended that the president be deprived of the normative right [norma] to suspend the activity of soviets at all levels.

The Constitutional Commission passed a resolution which requires the Congress of People's Deputies to confirm R. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet and deputy chairman of the Constitutional Commission, as the rapporteur on the draft Russian Federation Constitution. It was resolved to publish the draft Constitution in the press taking account of comments expressed at the 24 March session.

Parliament Urged To 'Rescind' Liberalization

LD2603000392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 25 Mar 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] If the government does liberalize fuel prices, even if it uses a presidential decree for this, the Supreme Soviet should rescind this decision. That was stated this morning by Ruslan Khasbulatov, head of the Russian parliament, speaking at the session.

Interparliamentary Assembly To Be Discussed

LD2503143192 Moscow TASS in English 1257 GMT 25 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow March 25 TASS—The creation of an Interparliamentary Assembly of member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is the main question to be discussed at a meeting of chiefs of parliaments to be held in Alma-Ata on March 27, Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Parliament, told a joint meeting of the Parliament's chambers on Wednesday [25 March].

He emphasised the need for close coordination of parliamentary activity in the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States. "The whole world does this. We cannot be an exception", Khasbulatov said. He said it would be most fortunate if it were possible to agree on forming the Interparliamentary Assembly.

As is known, the debating of the draft agreement on the Interparliamentary Assembly was put off on the proposal on a number of delegations at the Moscow meeting of heads of parliament of CIS countries in February.

Khasbulatov Speaks to Religious Leaders

LD2503214592 Moscow TASS in English 1806 GMT 24 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Alexey Tabachnikov]

[Text] Moscow March 24 TASS—"There are not only many ethnic groups, but also many religions in our state. We value most that you manage to bring peace and tranquility to your flock in this difficult time we are living through", Russian parliament Spokesman Ruslan Khasbulatov told religious figures here today.

The meeting, held by the Parliamentary Committee on Freedom of Conscience and Religion, attracted spiritual leaders of Christianity and its various trends, as well as Islam, Buddhism and Judaism.

Meeting participants adopted an appeal to the Russian parliament head and passed it over to Ruslan Khasbulatov. It says "the way out of the current crisis should be searched for in cooperation and consolidation of all peoples and political forces of Russia".

In the words of religious figures, the major current problem of all religions is return of churches to the believers and implementation of the law "on freedom of conscience". The religious figures assured they are ready to actively help state bodies in the solution of inter-ethnic conflicts, which "have a tendency of overgrowing into inter-religious".

Federal Treaty Could Avert 'Disintegration'

LD2503220892 Moscow TASS in English 1258 GMT 25 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS observer Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow March 25 [dateline as received]—In the opinion of many parliamentarians, the signing of the Federal Treaty planned for March 31 can avert the disintegration of Russian statehood. This document on the separation of powers between federal bodies and local authorities—in republics, territories, regions and autonomous formations within Russia—was initialed in several stages by the Russian parliament. Preparation for its signing has been completed.

Nikolay Travkin, leader of the Democratic Party of Russia, which is also described as the party of supporters of a strong state, said: "The time bomb placed under the Union Treaty has exploded. The fuse linked to the treaty between Russian subject began burning". He apparently refers to the refusal of Tatarstan and the Chechen republic to sign the Federal Treaty. Tatarstan's President Mintimer Shaymiyev believes that the signing of the treaty would be tantamount to waiving the republic's sovereignty.

But this concern is unfounded. The Federal Treaty presupposes "serious decentralisation of the state and provides legal basis for removing tension on many matters", Ruslan Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian parliament, told a meeting of the constitutional commission. Incidentally, the provisions of the treaty are included in the draft new constitution that will be submitted to the forthcoming Congress of Russian People's Deputies. "A republic, territory, region consist of self-governing units. The territorial structure of republics, territories, regions is determined by their constitutions", the draft new constitution says in part.

There is no unanimity in the assessment of the draft's sections dealing with the separation of power between the centre and republics. Some are concerned that the document, just as the draft union treaty that has not been fulfilled, will lead to the loosening of unity, and even to the disintegration of the state. Others are glad that, for the first time in the country's history, there is an opportunity to form a real federation suiting the principles of civilised world community.

Problems remain even in some republics that have initialed the treaty. A congress of the Kabardin people, for instance, having declared for unity with Russia, saw in the document's text a threat to national self-determination. The Constitutional Commission of the Buryatian Parliament believes the document needs refining. Meanwhile, Boris Yakovlev, first deputy chairman of the Chuvash Parliament, is optimistic. "We are firmly in favour of the union with Russia within one state".

It is to be hoped that reasonable optimism will help politicians make the right move on March 31.

Gaydar Sees No Risk of Hyper-Inflation

LD2503144492 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1042 GMT 25 Mar 92

[From the "Domestic Market" section]

[Text] Moscow [dateline as received]—RF [Russian Federation] Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar: We can now allow ourselves to relax our financial policy a little bit since the excess monetary mass has already been dropped and there is no risk of hyper-inflation.

On March 24, Yegor Gaydar further stated at a parliamentary hearing on economic problems: Now we even have an excess of receipts over expenditure and for the several coming months a deficit-free budget will cease to be the goal of this administration's economic policy. We have now a possibility of maneuvering within 3-4 per cent of the national product.

Yegor Gaydar rejected the proposal to free from taxation the share of the entities profit used for investment as a general decision taxation benefits as regards investment profits could be specific only, he stated. The vice premier argues that there is no need to reduce the bank interest on credit—if you take inflation into account, the present rates of interest are not only normal but even detrimental to creditors. He also rejected the idea of freezing prices and wages recommended by Academician Nikolay Petrakov as it would lead to the restoration of the old administrative system of managing the economy.

Yegor Gaydar rejected the allegation by Academician Georgiy Arbatov that the administration was deceiving the nation concealing economic data from the public. No instructions to classify the data on money emission and other indices have been given and there was just a delay in publishing them for technical reasons. It can be easily verified, for the state committee for statistics reports to the Supreme Soviet, the RF Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar stated.

Reports Jan-Feb Budget Surplus

LD2603015292 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1900 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Report by Mayak parliamentary correspondent Vera Shchelkunova; from the "New Wave" program]

[Text] I believe that the speech by Yegor Gaydar, deputy prime minister of the Russian Government, at parliamentary hearings on the Russian Federation draft budget for 1992, provided a real sensation today. The point is that there was a report in IZVESTIYA a few days ago, based on a Finance Ministry memorandum to the government, which quoted simply terrible figures: that the Russian budget for the first quarter would be completed with a deficit of 84 billion rubles [R]. Here is what Yegor Gaydar said on this matter today:

[Begin Gaydar recording] I can read you official information—official information, not IZVESTIYA's—about what actually happened to the budget during those two months. The revenue for the consolidated budget for January and February totalled R196.6 billion. During that period, we financed expenditures of R68.3 billion from local budgets and spent R116.1 billion from the republican budget, making a total of R184.4 billion. Thus, the surplus, the amount by which revenue exceeded expenditure, in the consolidated budget for January and February came to R12 billion, which is far from the catastrophic deficit talked about here. This applies to real implementation of the budget, because these amounts have been spent and received by the budget in real terms. [end recording]

[Shchelkunova] Thus, [words indistinct], esteemed listeners, the Russian Federation's budget in the first two months of this year has even had a surplus of revenue over expenditure.

Today's hearings also were addressed by Andrey Nechayev, minister of economics of the Russian Federation. He talked about a forecast of the economic situation for this year. According to his assessments, based on an analysis of the economic situation, it will not be possible to overcome the decline in industrial production this year, but he hopes that it might be possible, all the same, to stop the decline by the end of the year.

Voronin on Solving Economic Problems

LD2503102592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1635 GMT 23 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Moscow—The RF [Russian Federation] Supreme Soviet Deputy Chairman Yuriy Voronin: Until the manageability is restored the economic problems won't be solved.

On March 23 at the parliament's hearing on the process of the economic reform undertaken upon initiative of the deputies' faction Free Russia Voronin stated as well: The main error of Yegor Gaydar's policy is that all the ties with the real situation has been severed which lead to the loss of control over the economy .

At the 3rd Congress of People's Deputies of Russia I was for the extraordinary measures and the emergency budget though this is not the same as the introduction of an economic emergency state which was suggested by Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy, stressed Voronin. The objective of achieving a balanced (non-deficit) budget put forward by Mr. Gaydar is, according to Voronin, unrealistic. I am for a budget with a deficit but the question is what would be the amount of such a deficit...Gaydar's error was also that the government did not suggest a wholesome economic program in due time and this omission should be corrected at the 6th Congress of People's Deputies. The government thought that the sooner transfer to the market relationships is, the quicker solution of the economic problems. In fact the transition to the market should be gradual, stressed Voronin. According to Voronin, in order to overcome the prices not only the market methods should be used and the president has already begun employing them by partially re-instituting the state order and business relations at the level of 1990-1991.

Fedorov Says Drafts 'Counter' Legal Reform

LD2503103192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1635 GMT 23 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Moscow—Russian Minister of Justice Nikolay Fedorov says the Russian draft law on the bar and legal aid in the Russian Federation is anti-constitutional and reactionary.

Nikolay Fedorov said at a session of the Presidium of the Russian parliament on March 23 that the draft law, prepared by the parliamentary committee for legislation, openly and obviously runs counter to the concept of the legal reform, which is being implemented in the Russian Federation. In the opinion of Fedorov, the draft law does not give the right to be a private practicing barrister and puts the bar collegium above barristers. According to Fedorov, the government prepared the draft law on the bar, which would be submitted to the parliament this week.

In his turn, chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for Legislation Mikhail Mityukov stressed: The Minister of Justice suggests that the old system be destroyed and we pass over at once to private bar practice ,what, in the opinion of some legislators, will result in the outflow of barristers from small populated localities. The Presidium of the Russian parliament sent the draft law on the bar and legal aid in the Russian Federation to committees and commissions. Parliamentary hearings on this issue will be held without fail.

Decree on One-Time Welfare Payments Approved

LD2503203992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Boris Yeltsin presented to parliament a draft decree that aims to improve the social security of those less fortunate. The draft provides for one-time payments during April 1992 and for the social security of certain groups for 1992. At a joint session of the chambers today, the Supreme Soviet approved the draft presidential decree. Its resolution mandates the Russian Government to completely clear the indebtedness of the republican budget to the pension fund. This debt comes to 60 billion rubles. In keeping with Boris Yeltsin's decree, one-time payments of 300 rubles each will be made in April to recipients of old-age and disability pensions, of pensions for the loss of the bread winner, and also of long-service and social pensions.

Regional Affairs

Chechen President Dudayev: 'I'm Strong Enough'

PM2603133192 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS FAX DIGEST in English 24 Mar 92 pp 1-4

[Interview with Dzhakhar Dudayev, aged 48, President of the Chechen Republic, by MOSCOW NEWS North Caucasus Correspondent Lyudmila Leontyeva; place and date not given: "I Would Rather They Do It Openly"]

[Text] MN [MOSCOW NEWS]: Mr President, you have declared the establishment of a Caucasian economic zone which includes, among others, certain Russian regions and terrritories. Given your strained relations with Russia this is hardly feasible.

Dudayev: In effect such a zone has already been set up. Krasnodar, Rostov-on-Don, Astrakhan, the Stavropol area have signed economically beneficial treaties with us. Some other regions in Central Russia are impatient to follow suit. But does it make the Centre happy?

MN: But it's a fact that Russians are leaving the Chechen republic in increasing numbers.

Dudayev: They are afraid of bloodshed--they see what happens in Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Baltic states, from which the Russians are being evicted. We are the only republic which has from the start declared equal opportunities and equal rights for all. We have two official languages, Chechen and Russian, and double citizenship. Passports and residence permits have been abolished and all housing privatized free of charge, to the great benefit of the poorer families.

MN: But there are virtually no Russians in the Chechen Republic's ruling structures.

Dudayev: Frightened by Russian propaganda, they did not take part in local elections. But those who worked in local administration continue in their offices. We shall normalize the situation in this area as soon as we become really independent. The exodus can be stopped with just one decree allowing the realization of the fugitives' flats, houses and dachas at amortized (depleted) cost....

MN: I know many cases in Groznyy when flats belonging to Russians have been seized by the Chechens.

Dudayev: Things like this occur, in waves, provoked by local KGB men and dozens of terrorists sent to the republic. Besides, hundreds of ex-convicts are currently active in the republic.

MN : It was not the Russian Government who set them free, but the Chechens themselves.

Dudayev: The Russian Government did. In nearby Pyatigorsk, a special Interior Ministry department has been set up to control the Caucasian region, specifically the Chechen Republic. Various actions are carried out by the department, and arms are passed around.

MN: You are reported to have declared Khasbulatov, Aslakhanov and other MPs [members of parliament] enemies of the Chechen people and called for reprisals against them.

Dudayev: Absolute nonsense! How can people believe everything the central press and TV says?

If you're frightened by every report, what good is such democracy or such power? People come to me with all kinds of publications. They bring leaflets, too. But I say to them: I would rather they do it openly. Those who act secretly are more dangerous. Let the people see who's who and judge for themselves. And they constitute no opposition - they have no position of their own. I think I'm strong enough to disregard them.

It's a different matter that their secret motive is to get rid of me physically. Moscow would be very happy to see me removed. I would not envy anyone who chooses to cooperate. The aggressive forces that would take over would crush and physically destroy all opponents and opposition members. I have arrived at my programme the hard way, and checked it against international law.

My weapons are the law and democracy on a scale practicable in society.

MN: Is the situation in the Chechen Republioc likely to develop the same way as in Georgia?

Dudayev: In Georgia marchers were fired at, which is absolutely impossible here. When you shoot here you kill yourself and your children. A thousand years may pass, but a killer will not be pardoned. He will be found out and the killing avenged. The whole clan will work for that.

MN: What is your position concerning the army quartered at Gorznyy?

Dudayev: I would agree to any option and have said so to the Russian Government: if you want to go, let's conclude an agreement on the withdrawal procedure. If you want to keep the garrison here, it's O.K. by us, provided we are given firm guarantees that the Russian leadership will not stage any provocations or use the army against the Chechen people.

MN: Mr President, you haven't concealed your hatred of what you call the "imperial" Centre and its leaders—except Yeltsin, who you say is the only man you can negotiate with. Have you changed your opinion about him?

Dudayev: No, I haven't. Moreover, I sympathize with him. He is a democratically-minded man, but working in difficult surroundings. He is being led on, specifically by the Supreme Soviet which takes its aggression out on Yeltsin and is unable to perform its legislative functions.

MN: Who else do you regard as true Russian democrats?

Dudayev: Afanasyev and Novodvorskaya. They are the people to be given a free hand now, and Yeltsin's support. Then Russia could really start anew.

MN: But your former closest allies who have joined the opposition now accuse you of having surrounded yourself with mafiosi and notoriously corrupt men.

Dudayev: It would be more correct to say they have surrounded me the same as they have surrounded Yeltsin. It is happening to all the new leaders in this transition period. Getting rid of such company is not easy, but we are determined to do so.

MN: How?

Dudayev: In the way we have selected candidates for the new cabinet of ministers. A contest of personalities, programmes and competence. As to the mafia..., I am aware of it as a tangible force and I'm working on a scheme designed to rid it of its specific characteristics and qualities, so that in the long run this whole sector is converted to a new outlook and brought to serve the Chechen people.

MN: How can you do this to a mafia?

Dudayev: By establishing the priority of law and strict mechanisms for its operation and enforcement. It is the lack of such mechanisms that breeds a mafia.

MN: You have promised that following the victory of the revolution the people will have everything, including camel's milk. Don't you blame yourself for empty promises?

Dudayev: I feel no blame. Today we are fully dependent on Russia's financial and economic policy, which has kept us under blockade for almost a year. Russia has monopolized the function of the USSR's legal successor, appropriated its wealth and left everybody in debt, with the help of arms. Russia has nuclear weapons which are not necessarily an advantage. They can turn into a great misfortune. We shall take extreme measures to defend our sovereignty.

MN: With your secession from the Federation, Russia can reclaim its land in, say, the Stavropol Territory, which was given to the Chechens after the repatriation of Vainakhs in 1957.

Dudayev: The Chechens never demanded other people's land and owe no land to others. The Russian Empire changed the Chechen people's territorial status six times, without our consent. How do we reapportion our territory—within the borders drawn up 1918, 1934, or 1957? It will take a lifetime merely to sort things out.

MN: On April 6 the Congress of Russia's People's Deputies will discuss Shakhray's draft legislation concerning the establishment of Chechen and Ingush republics within the Russian Federation.

Dudayev: This is a step towards confrontation. What will Russia achieve with such legislation? It is trying to buy the Ingushes over by giving them the Prigorodny District. But how will Russia divide the Chechen-Ingush Republic into two states? By cutting off a chunk of originally Chechen land for Ingushetia. Naturally Ingush extremists are ready to invite Russia to help them in the Sunzhenskiy and Malgobekskiy districts. Russian troops will arrive there and war will break out.

The Chechens have realized they have a right to freedom, and it is impossible to make them change their mind. But if the Centre recognizes my people's right to choose, Russia will have no ally more loyal or reliable than the Chechens.

Opposition to Dudayev Government Forms Bloc

LD2503235492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 25 Mar 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] In the Chechen Republic, the opposition to Dzhakhar Dudayev's government is trying to form a bloc. A conference of representatives has been held and a program is being discussed. Its name has been determined: the Bloc of Democratic Forces [Blok Demokraticheskikh Sil]. The opposition is stressing the undemocratic nature of the present leadership in the Chechen Republic. Late yesterday evening the NEGA agency reported that Chechen Foreign Minister Shamil Beno tendered his resignation. The reason was his disagreement with President Dudayev's position towards the Russian Federation. According to reports from the same agency, relations are deteriorating between Chechen authorities and the trade unions which have been declared anti-popular and the businessmen. The latter are threatening to declare the Chechen Republic an unfavourable zone for business. That is how they are seeking to draw the authorities' attention to their activities.

The Muslim fast of Ramadan is still continuing. It ends on 6 April and on that day the Chechen authorities expect the start of anti-government demonstrations. The Committee for Defense and Security of the Chechen Republic's parliament has reported that military units have already been put on full combat alert. Dzhakar Dudayev continues to make impatient gestures towards Russia. Today TASS reported his ultimatum to the Russian authorities who, the president considers, have been blockading the republic for nearly a year, as Dudayev put it, by any extreme measures.

Beno Says Resignation Claims 'Disinformation'

LD2603102192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0200 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Some of the media in the Russian Federation have carried the report that Shamil Beno, foreign minister of the Checheniya Republic, has allegedly issued a press

statement on his resignation. Ratmir Ilyanov, a correspondent for the EVROAZIA news agency [as heard], spoke to Artur Umanskiy, one of Minister Beno's officials in charge of the public relations sector under the foreign minister, and asked him to comment on this report.

[Begin Ilyanov recording] Shamil Beno, the foreign minister of the Checheniya Republic, his official Artur Umanskiy said, today held planning meetings with enterpreneurs and agriculture specialists from Germany who are currently in our republic on a business visit. As for the release allegedly issued by Shamil Beno, this statement does not accord with reality. Shamil Beno, the foreign minster of the Checheniya Republic, has personally not made any statement about his resignation at all in the past few days. Moreover, following the transmission of this news on Radio Rossii, he tried to find out from the president's office and the Cabinet of Ministers who could have made this statement on his behalf. However, the author of this statement was not the foreign minister himself, nor officials in his office, and the origin is not known.

In this connection, the Checheniya Ministry of Foreign Affairs states that this information about the resignation of Shamil Beno is disinformation. There are no differences between the minister of foreign affairs—he is the president's adviser on foreign affairs—and President Dudayev on issues of foreign policy. [end recording]

Speaking on republican television yesterday, Foreign Minister Shamil Beno confirmed that of late serious differences have arisen in the republic's government between him and certain members of the Cabinet on issues of domestic policy, the NEGA agency reports. On the foreign policy of Checheniya, Minister Beno said that the republic must play a dominating role in the northern Caucasus and perhaps beyond the Caucasus. In addition, he called normalization of relations with Russia one of the main directions of foreign policy. In the opinion of Shamil Beno, the use of force to achieve sovereignty for Checheniya worries foreign states. In this connection Beno stressed the particular need to establish amicable relations with the Russian Federation.

Regional 'Negative' Attitude to Center Cited

LD2503192592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1528 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] The first local reaction to the initialling of the federative treaty shows a negative or dual attitude of some regional authorities to the new center-proposed state restructuring of Russia. The Tyumen region, in particular, will not sign the federative treaty, the Tyumen regional council presidium resolved on March 23. In doing so, the regional authorities pointed out a number of provisions in the center-proposed draft constitution of the Russian Federation that may lead to serious conflicts between the federation's republics, territories, regions, and autonomous districts. The current draft constitution, the Tyumen regional council presidium insists, does not envisage certain rights the regions must enjoy equally with the republics. The wording of an autonomous district status is not clear reading that it may, as well as, respectively, may not, be part of a republic, territory, region, the Tyumen regional authorities argue.

The presidium, among other things, proposed the following amendments: Republics, territories, and regions must have an equal state and legal status, while autonomous districts must be part of a territory or region.

On March 24, addressing the conference in Ufa devoted to the constitutional status of Bashkortostan, chairman of the republic's Supreme Council Murtaza Rakhimov said: The fact that the Russian federative treaty has been initialled by Bashkiria does not mean that we shall sign it. In principle, we are for signing the federative treaty, but after agreeing, in principle, to sign it, we will scrutinize its every provision .

The republic's Supreme Council chairman reiterated that the Bashkortostan leadership fully supports Tatarstan in its struggle for sovereignty. The conference highlighted the issue of economic and state sovereignty borders of the former Russian autonomies and Article 3 of the federative treaty specifying the rights and powers of the republics and the Russian center.

In the meantime, work on drafting Bashkortostan's own constitution has become more active. Two versions of the republic's status were proposed at the March 24 session of the commission in charge of drafting the new constitution - as a developing state basing its relations with other states on equal treaties or as a national-state entity within the Russian Federation.

The experience of Tatarstan, however, should give food for thought to the leaders of the regions and Russia's former autonomies seeking more independence from the Russian center, some experts believe. The results of the referendum in Tatarstan have caused a serious concern in the Kazan banking circles over the availability of cash money in the republic. They do not rule out the possibility of the Russian center reacting to the results of the referendum by slashing cash, a well-informed source reported. Until now the actions of the most radical regions have only met with a verbal criticism of the Russian leadership or with separate political decisions with the leadership representatives, in their recent official speeches trying to give every emphasis to the fact that the center does not intend to undertake any economic sanctions against the so-called separatists whose actions are fraught with a political disintegration of Russia. But it is known for a fact that as early as 1991, on the eve of the 3rd Congress of RSFSR People's Deputies, when the issue of Russia's disintegration emerged for the first time, the federal leadership was already elaborating all sorts of covert economic sanctions against the regions demanding big rights. According to some experts, none other than financial measures may well become one of

the Russian center's main levers of pressurizing the unruly republics and regions.

Addressing the March 24 session of the Sverdlovsk regional council, head of the administration Eduard Rossel, said there was a dire shortage of cash money to pay wages in the region. Since last December the shortage of cash in the Sverdlovsk region has gone up from 700,000 rubles [R] to R2 billion. Judging by his talks in the Russian Government the head of the administration has made a conclusion about what he described as an artificial isolation of the region.

Similar reports are coming from Russia's other areas and primarily from Siberia where there is utter resentment of the federal goverenment's economic reforms and a wish to rely only on their forces is becoming ever more pronounced. Their artificial isolation, on the contrary, urges them to search for an independent way out of the critical situations. Thus, the Sverdlovsk regional administration, thanks to various barter operations, has reached agreement with the perm goznak money-printing factory for a carriage of R1,000 notes to be sent to the region shortly. At the moment the Russian center is pursuing the old policy of subjugating provinces to Moscow, experts from the History Institute with the Russian Academy of Sciences Siberian branch argue. The federal leadership does not have their own concept of regional socio-economic development and national-state structure and this kind of position has no future and is historically doomed .

Tatarstan, Bashkortostan Draft Treaty

OW2603132092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2030 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] According to IF [INTERFAX] sources, a group of Tatarstan's MPs [members of parliament] has drafted a confederative treaty between Bashkortostan and Tatarstan, which envisages the formation of a Volga-Ural confederation, open for other republics of the region. The confederation is expected to be a presidential republic, and have double citizenship, as well as its own legislation and power bodies: The Council of the Republic, the State Council and the government.

The draft document also envisages uniform financial and taxing policies, and the same currency. Ufa will be the capital. The confederation is going to be a sovereign member of the CIS. People's Deputy of Tatarstan N. Mansurov was asked to pass the document to the presidium of the Bashkortostan parliament. Presently, he is working with the commission for ethnic relations of the Bashkortostan parliament.

Consultative Council Discusses Sovereignty

LD2403124292 Moscow TASS in English 1636 GMT 21 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Alfred Artamonov]

[Text] Izhevsk March 21 TASS—A consultative council of the congress of the democratic Forces of republics and national-territorial entities integrated in the Russian Federation opened in Izhevsk today. It is being attended by representatives from Bashkortostan, Mariy El, the Gorno-Altay region and the Komi-Perm national district.

The situation in the republics and the development of their sovereignty became the topic of a heated discussion. Various ideas were expressed about the division of authority of the national republics. The delegates were addressed by the Russian legislators Vladimir Lysenko, member of the Public Relations Committee, and Oleg Rumyantsev, executive secretary of the Constitutional Commission of the Russian parliament.

The council will continue its work on Sunday [22 March].

Moscow Plans To Attract Foreign Activity

OW2603070792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1308 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The leadership of the Moscow region has approved "The main directions for foreign economic activity in the region", which calls for broader cooperation with foreign firms and creating more ways to attract foreign investments. The document includes some large projects to reorganize industry and agriculture, and plans to create a number of free economic zones.

Concerning the agro-industrial complex, the region's leaders are planning to attract foreign investments to transform farming around Moscow. The regional administration is prepared to attract Western investments, technology and equipment in all spheres of the agro-industrial complex, paying special attention to problems of storing, processing and transporting agricultural products. The region's farms specialize in potato and vegetable crops as well as milk and egg production. The 357 state farms and 54 collective farms in the Moscow region cover over 1.7 mn hectares of land, of which 1.2 mn are ploughed fields. In addition to this, the farms own about 1 mn head of cattle, more than 500,000 head of pigs and about 37 mn heads of fowl.

In order for the development program for the timber industry to succeed, the regional administration intends to start searching for foreign partners who are prepared to supply modern technology and equipment in exchange for half- finished wood products and furniture. According to expert estimates, there are over 30 mn cubic meters of reserves of timber ready for milling, and timber already past its milling prime in the region. The region does not, however, have adequate capabilities to process timber, and about 15 mn cubic meters of wood have been accumulated.

The region is planning the fundamental reconstruction of its main highways with the goal of bringing road quality up to international standards. Reconstruction also includes modernizing and creating filling stations, camping grounds, motels, stores and fast-food stops. In order to attract foreign investments, the regional administration is considering the possibility of selling plots of land along highways or setting up long-term rents for foreign companies, as well as granting them the right to some part of profits from the objects constructed.

There will also be a plan for creating free economic zones in the Sheremetyevo and Domodedovo regions, along with the creation of a research and technology center in the city of Dubna, where the United Institute for Atomic Research is located. The free economic zones will be home to business centers with modern building complexes including first class hotels, offices and permanent fair grounds. The regional administration is proposing that large foreign firms interested in renting valuable plots of land help finance construction.

Moscow Seeks Profits Through Diversification

PM2503144992 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 21 Mar 92

[From the "M-Trust" program: Video report by unidentified reporter]

[Excerpt] We visited Moscow's "Temp" experimental plant to prepare a report on the work of middling industrial enterprises in the new economic conditions. But on entering the lobby we were at first disappointed. We were struck right away by a slogan and beneath it a monolithic bust of the leader of the world proletariat. However we were immediately assured that this has nothing to do with the collective's political bias. Simply the plant was modernized in the late 1970's and the stagnant interior is a throwback to that period. At the moment there is no time to change it, there are lots of other things to do, the main thing being to convert the production unit to produce the most profitable goods. The plant's collective is now extremely interested in doing this since the workers have in practice become full-fledged owners of their enterprise by forming a partnership. Roughly 150 of the 200 or more workers have put in money. For the time being "Temp" is not suspending production of its customary unique technological equipment. But production of these electric screwdrivers—any craftsman's dream—has already been set up. A multifunctional woodworking machine will shortly be manufactured. [passage omitted]

Optics Plant Faces Conversion

PM2603105192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 21 Mar 92

[From the "M-Trust" program: Video report by unidentified reporter]

[Text] Highly accurate optics are valued throughout the world not only because they are used in household equipment but also because they are a strategic material. Special crystals with a tolerance of just a few thousandths of a micron are used in various missile guidance systems, for instance. Moscow's Mechanical Optics Plant is not only concerned with defense matters. It produces high-quality geodesic equipment, but today it has come up against a problem: To whom is it to sell its output? The military-industrial complex has not totally renounced the plant's services, but orders have begun to fall off. Other consumers make one-shot purchases, but the plant is working without stoppages and buying raw materials and new equipment with no market to sell its produce.

What will you do if the defense industry abandons you once and for all?

[V.M. Novoshchenkov, director of optics plant] We are currently formulating a program of instrument building and directing our attention to producing photogrammetrical instruments; we plan this year in conjunction with the Swiss firm Leica to start manufacturing two experimental prototypes and, if successful, we will engage in steady series production in 1993. We also plan to increase production of consumer goods.

[Reporter] It is no easy matter to switch one's attention to producing consumer goods, much less those in great demand, but the plant has all the requisite equipment—accurate tools and monitoring equipment. Admittedly, the final assembly is done by hand, but there is no need for all-out mechanization, after all highly professional specialists work here. So, there have been cuts all over the plant, but things have improved, and now everyone is contemplating privatization.

Cossack Border Troop Formed in Maritime Kray

PM2503142692 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Video report by M. Voznesenskiy; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Voznesenskiy] Border troops in Maritime Kray have their own particular view of professional service. There was never a tsarist border guard corps here, the Chinese border was protected by the Ussuriysk Cossack Army who tilled the land and repulsed attacks by honghuzi [armed gangs operating in Manchuria from mid-19th century until 1949 revolution]. The preference for the old model is increasingly evident.

[Unidentified speaker] That is my job, to transform this border detachment into a Cossack border detachment. But it will be something completely different. This will be a professional border unit, not like it is at the moment.

[Voznesenskiy] At the moment, however, the law does not regard the Cossacks as a military formation but simply as a sociocultural border detachment in which

Cossacks register. They will be distinguished by a special stripe, but that is the only distinguishing feature—for the time being. For the time being they number around 30 men and the press reports on the creation of a separate Cossack border outpost are, to put it mildly, premature.

Government Aide Meets Usinsk Oil Workers

PM2503105792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Mar 92 First Edition p 2

[Report from roundup of ITAR-TASS reports]

[Text] Usinsk (Komi Soviet Socialist Republic)—Virtually all the boreholes of the Usinsk drilling operations trust have been stopped. Talks with the oil workers are being conducted by Viktor Ott, chairman of the Russian Federation Ministry of Fuel and Energy's committee for the oil industry, who flew in the day before. Fanis Basyrov, cochairman of the Usinsk united workers' strike committee, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that the strikers and the collectives that support them intend to achieve the fulfillment of their demands.

Irkutsk Region Declared Bankrupt

LD2503212892 Moscow TASS in English 0553 GMT 25 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Khodiy]

[Text] Irkutsk March 25 TASS—A session of the Irkutsk Regional Council held in Irkutsk has declared the region to be bankrupt and asked the Supreme Soviet and the Russian Central Bank to grant a 20-billion-ruble credit to it.

Most of the people's deputies explained their actions by the critical economic situation that formed as a result of a shortage of financial resources, primarily at chemical, petrochemical, non-ferrous metallurgical and machine-building enterprises. In their opinion, a shortage of their own circulating assets brought to a standstill trade, material and technical supply, foreign economic ties and barter deals. It was announced that the regional council does not agree with the financial and crediting policy, pursued by the government, and frees itself of the responsibility for the negative consequences of the absence of those resources.

A group of people's deputies and senior executives from major industrial enterprises went to Moscow to settle this problem.

International Affairs

Kravchuk Issues Decree Recalling Servicemen

LD2503135692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1215 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Kiev, 25 Mar (UKRINFORM-TASS)—Servicemen, who are Ukrainian citizens from military units stationed in Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Moldova, are to return to their own republic in order to carry out their military service. This is stated in a decree issued today by republican President Leonid Kravchuk. The servicemen's desire to serve on the territory of their state is being taken into account when bringing them home. Servicemen doing their compulsory military service should return by 20 May 1992, and officers and warrant officers should return during 1992 and 1993.

Kravchuk Arrives in India for 5-Day Visit

LD2503202292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1408 GMT 25 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Karmalito]

[Excerpts] Delhi, March 25 (TASS)—President of the Ukraine Leonid Kravchuk arrived in India today for a five-day visit. [passage omitted]

Replying to journalists' questions, L. Kravchuk commented that thorough preparation has gone into the visit to India. "We are planning to sign a treaty on friendship and cooperation and also a number of agreements on economic, scientific, technological, and cultural links," he said. "I think that we will accomplish the tasks set before us, because we enjoy mutual understanding and a mutual interest."

The itinerary includes meetings and talks with the Indian president, prime minister, and other leaders. L. Kravchuk and the high-ranking delegation accompanying him will visit Bombay, India's leading industrial and cultural center, where he will be shown the Santa Cruz export-development zone. There will be a meeting with Indian business representatives at the Bombay Chamber of Commerce and Industry. [passage omitted]

L. Kravchuk and the Ukrainian delegation will depart for Kiev on the morning of 29 March.

[Moscow TASS in English at 1352 GMT on 25 March carries a similar report from New Delhi which adds the following: "Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk arrived in India on an official visit on Wednesday [25 March]. He was welcomed in the Rashtrapati Bhavan palace by President Ramaswamy Venkataraman, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, Foreign Minister Madhavsinh Solanki and other officials."]

'Special' Moldovan Border Zone Implemented

LD2503161592 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1507 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Kiev, 25 Mar (TASS)—The Ukraine Government has granted permission to the appropriate bodies to check documents and carry out searches of citizens, their possessions and means of transportation on the border with Moldova. In accordance with President Leonid Kravchuk's decree "On Measures to Guard Ukraine's State Border with the Republic of Moldova", it has ratified a regulation on a special regime zone in the Moldovan border area. It is permitted to expel from the confines of the zone people who violate the regime established inside it, breaching public order. Citizens of Ukraine, Moldova, and other CIS countries are permitted across the border with Moldova with passports, while citizens of other states are allowed across if they have documents granting the right of entry or exit into Ukraine.

Reports on Withdrawal From CIS Denied

PM2503150692 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Reports by Sergey Mushkaterov and Sergey Tsikora under general heading "Kiev Refutes Reports by London Newspapers About Ukraine's Preparations To Withdraw From CIS"]

[Text] [Mushkaterov report] A session of the Ukrainian parliament opened in Kiev on 24 March. According to the British newspaper FINANCIAL TIMES it is examining an economic program which essentially envisages severing ties with Russia.

This program, a copy of which has been obtained by the newspaper's Kiev correspondent, has been drawn up by A. Yemelyanov, head of the economic section of the Ukrainian Duma. The FINANCIAL TIMES notes that "it contains a warning that the economic conflict between Ukraine and Russia 'threatens the republic's independence as such.'" "The Ukrainian president," the article says, "was first acquainted with this program 19 March, and it cannot be ruled out that it was this program which led to the exacerbation of the conflict between the two republics at the CIS summit the following day."

In turn London's THE INDEPENDENT newspaper writes that "the Ukrainian leadership, disillusioned by the outcome of the conference of Commonwealth heads of state in Kiev last week, is now preparing to leave the CIS." At the end of last week, the newspaper writes, President L. Kravchuk met leaders of Rukh, the republic's most influential nationalist movement, with a view to embarking on the compilation of a draft law envisaging Ukraine's withdrawal from the Commonwealth. THE INDEPENDENT believes that it is this draft law which is being discussed at the closed session.

[Tsikora report] There are no outward signs in Kiev of preparations for Ukraine's withdrawal from the CIS.

On the morning of 24 March the republic president was following his schedule—receiving the latest delegation and preparing for a plenary session of the parliament. I. Plyushch, chairman of the Supreme Soviet, was holding a session of the Soviet Presidium where questions submitted to the session were being "thrashed out." V. Fokin was discussing current government issues with a number of ministers.

I did not manage to "break into" the schedule of the republic leaders and obtain their comments on the foreign press reports that morning. The situation was elucidated by Vladimir Shlyaposhnikov, an adviser to the Ukrainian president and head of his press service. On hearing my account of the reports by certain foreign correspondents from Kiev, he said:

The issue of Ukraine's withdrawal from the Commonwealth does not feature on the agenda of the closed sitting of the republic Supreme Soviet session. Deputies will examine the draft "Fundamentals of Ukraine's National Economic Policy" and also a number of questions pertaining to military organizational development. Incidentally, foreign diplomats accredited in Kiev were briefed on this yesterday, 23 March, during their meeting with I. Plyushch, head of the Ukrainian parliament.

Supreme Soviet Chairman Views Break Up of CIS

LD2603113292 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 2000 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Ukraine Supreme Soviet Chairman Ivan Plyushch on 23 March met the leaders of foreign offices in Kiev. Our correspondent Oleksiy Berezenko reports.

[Begin Berezenko recording] The main leitmotif of the meeting between the head of the Ukraine Supreme Soviet with foreign representatives, one could say, was Ukraine and the world. We aspire today, stated Ivan Plyushch at the beginning of the conversation, to integrate Ukrainian economy with economies of other states. We strive for mutually beneficial cooperation between partners. He who dares invest money today in the Ukrainian economy will gain. This thought was voiced at the meeting when it was mentioned that entrepreneurs, businessmen from other countries, are still afraid to invest out of fear of economic and political instability in Ukraine. The response to this was that we are not asking for help but are inviting cooperation from businessmen and that the political situation in Ukraine is stable.

Answering the questions of ambassadors and charges d'affaire of a number of states, the head of the Ukraine Supreme Soviet described the links with former USSR republics in terms of economy, politics, and legislation. He talked about the results of the Kiev meeting of the leaders of CIS member states. Touching upon interstate links, he stressed that economic links will be necessary and will be based on an economic foundation. They will not be influenced by any political forces and there will be no accusations and intimidations such as Ukraine will not survive without Russia or accusations against Russia for introducing new prices. Ukraine is ready for cooperation with parliaments of other states at the level of standing commissions and committees for preparing legislative acts. In particular, it is expected to prepare a draft agreement on pensions. Ukrainian citizens work in the north, in Siberia, and in other regions creating material values there and developing the economy. But the question of who and how will pay their pension is not always answered.

Something else: Today at the level of the leaders of the member states of the CIS, the idea of creating an interparliamentary assembly is supported and discussed. What is Ukraine's position on this idea? To put it simply: negative. Ukraine intends to become a permanent representative in the Council of Europe. This aspiration is expressed by Belarus, Russia, and Moldova. There is no need to be in two interparliamentary structures at the same time.

The head of the Ukraine Supreme Soviet was asked what his attitude was to some Western media having evaluated the Kiev meeting of the leaders of the member states of the CIS as the beginning of the end of the CIS. Ivan Plyushch said that this type of cooperation is necessary for a civilized carrying out of the divorce process, and the main thing is a just division of property, assets, and resources. Today we witness the appropriation of all property by one state, both at home and abroad. Certain participants came to the Kiev meeting with obsolete ideas about approaches to the right of succession and just division. Their main argument is that it cannot be done. The head of the Supreme Soviet appealed to the ambassadors and charges d'affaire to take an understanding approach to the position of Ukraine in this question and to support its aspiration to secure the just division of the property, assets, and resources of the former Soviet Union. [end recording]

Plyushch, Foreign Diplomats Discuss Investments

LD2403161292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1531 GMT 23 Mar 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondents Anatoliy Grigoryev and Aleksey Petrunya]

[Text] Kiev, 23 Mar (TASS)—Ivan Plyushch, chairman of the republic's Supreme Soviet, has requested foreign diplomats to pass on to their peoples and governments a number of proposals for providing economic aid to Ukraine. Today he met with the heads of foreign diplomatic missions. This applies primarily to aid from Western countries, he stressed.

According to Plyushch, Ukraine is in dire need of advanced technologies and investments. Funds invested in the Ukrainian economy will pay and will be returned with profit, he assured the diplomats. Speaking of the elimination of the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster,

the chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Soviet stressed that, to resolve this, it is necessary to pool the efforts of all countries and to enlist their technologies, funds, and experience.

Ministry Says Russia's Position 'Unconstructive'

OW2503192292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1622 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The director of the press center of the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Victor Nagaychuk called Russia's position on the succession of the former USSR unconstructive. At a press conference in Kiev on the results of the Kiev summit Nagaychuk expressed disappointment that Moscow had blocked Ukraine's proposal on this question.

Nagaychuk said Ukraine's proposal on ratifying the START treaty was not supported at the summit. Thus the summit was not a turning point.

Nagaychuk told journalists that 111 nations have recognized Ukraine. Ukraine has established diplomatic relations with 58 of them.

Lugansk Cossacks Take Allegiance Oath to Russia

OW2503193092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1622 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] 200 Cossacks of the city of Krasnodon in the Lugansk region of Ukraine have taken the oath of allegiance to Don and Russia at a local Orthodox church. The solemn oath-taking ceremony was attended by Cossacks from the cities of Lisichansk, Schastye and Lugansk.

National Affairs

Ukraine Discusses Plan To Abandon Rubles

MK2503125592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 25 Mar 92 p 1

[Vladimir Skachko report under the "Ukraine" rubric: "Ukraine Rejects the Ruble and Switches to Transactions at World Prices"]

[Text] The Ukrainian parliament resumed its session 24 March and immediately changed the agenda. At the last session the deputies had agreed to discuss in camera their mutual relations and the Supreme Soviet's relations with the president and the government. However, on 24 March examination of this question was postponed until the next session. First of all the deputies discussed a document entitled "The Basic Principles of Ukrainian Economic Policy," on which the main speaker was President Leonid Kravchuk. It became apparent from private conversations with deputies that the essence of this document boils down to two basic issues. First, the basic principles of national economic policy envisage Ukraine's withdrawal from the single ruble area by switching all transactions to reusable Ukrainian coupons and freely convertible currency. The document indicates a time frame—1 April this year—but many deputies took this as a joke: Ukraine is hardly ready to take such a step because, in the words of People's Deputy V. Ivashchuk, nobody knows how many coupons are in circulation (as is known, coupons have been issued without any serial number). In his report, Leonid Kravchuk named a figure of 40-70 billion. Vice Premier V. Lanovoy named yet another figure—90 billion—at a session of the "New Ukraine" association.

Second, the draft document envisages an immediate switch to transactions in world prices in order to preclude the possibility of economic blackmail of Ukraine. There are various options regarding what to do with the rubles; for example, rubles could be exchanged at once for coupons within the republic, and in foreign transactions they could be used as the main unit of payment within CIS borders. Some people are talking about sending the rubles back to Russia in line with Russian demands while simultaneously introducing an exchange rate for freely convertible currency.

Leonid Kravchuk demanded that the deputies approve the new blueprint as an all-national program. However, he immediately encountered opposition. Among other things, many deputies believe that parliament should merely prepare the legislative basis for this program; it is up to Leonid Kravchuk—the executive—to carry it through.

A report on the activity of the Ukrainian National Bank and an outline of its future work was also discussed at this session; a draft parliamentary resolution on the dismissal of Vladimir Matviyenko, chairman of the bank's board, has been prepared.

Relations with the Crimea and the problem of the Crimean Tatar people were also due to be discussed. However, this document was removed from the agenda by a majority of votes. Meanwhile, Crimean Tatar pickets gathered under the walls of the parliament.

Economic Policy Detailed

PM2603121592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Sergey Tsikora: "Ukraine Is Not Leaving CIS But Is Changing Economic Course"]

[Text] Kiev—Information has leaked from the closed session of the Ukraine Supreme Soviet which examined the foundations of national economic policy.

Its concept was submitted by Ukrainian president L. Kravchuk. The discussion lasted almost the entire

working day. Over 20 deputies spoke. The measures proposed by the president were adopted by a constitutional majority.

Here are a few of the thesis provisions of the document adopted. The Supreme Soviet proceeds from the premise that since the destruction of the union center the republic's economy continues to be controlled from outside but not via financial, monetary, and prices policy. The reason is the lack of its own economic position for creating an independent Ukraine and the republic's following "in the footsteps" of the measures implemented by Russia. The consequences of this lack of independence, in the opinion of Ukrainian experts, will be most deplorable for the republic. Already the coupon is being drawn into the inflationary ruble circulation, its exchange rate if falling rapidly, and prices in the coupon sector of the economy are growing in accordance with the laws of inflation. Calculations show that the forthcoming increase in prices in Russia will result in a no less significant surge in prices in Ukraine. Wholesale prices in material production will increase 50 percent and before the end of the near they will increase nearly tenfold.

The deputies and the president considered the only way out of the situation to be "complete withdrawal from the ruble area and the immediate introduction of our own currency at the same time as the liberalization of prices in Russia." At first this role will be fulfilled by reusable coupons and then by the hryvnya [proposed Ukrainian currency].

To prevent a rise in prices on the coupon market it is proposed "to introduce simultaneously a system of mutual accounts with ruble zone states on the basis of international norms and orientation to world prices." The mechanism of mutual accounts will be "on a contract, clearing basis and regulated by the relevant agreements with Russia and the other CIS states." The transition to a national currency will require the structural perestroyka of the economy. It will include, inter alia, the gradual reduction of the import of output from ruble zone countries through the introduction of a regime of thrift, primarily in the use of fuel and energy resources. Ukraine will also introduce a system of payment for the shipment of freight across its territory to cover the balance of trade and payments with the CIS states.

One more important point of economic policy is Ukraine's intention to introduce in late 1992 internal convertibility of the national currency with the transition to a single system of taxation of economic activity in both national and foreign currency.

The closed session of parliament also determined the most urgent questions of economic policy. The main one is carrying out the sowing campaign and preventing a reduction of the volumes of agricultural production output. To this end as of 1 April "unrestricted powers are provided to the organs of state executive power, including representatives of the Ukrainian president in the oblasts, with regard to enlisting the technical facilities of enterprises and military subunits for agricultural work." The local leaders will bear personal responsibility for carrying out the sowing campaign.

To interest the producers of agricultural output in increasing its production and sale, it is proposed "to lift any restrictions on the prices of agricultural output." By this step the state is in fact getting rid of the highly unpleasant duties to be an intermediary and is allowing "the enterprises of agriculture and the processing sectors of industry to decide prices parity questions for themselves."

Seen as Break With Russia, CIS

PM2503163392 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 25 Mar 92 p 1

[I. Sichka report: "Ukraine: Farewell, CIS?"]

[Text] Despite the soothing assurances given by I. Plyushch, chairman of the Ukrainian parliament, and by V. Shlyaposhnikov, head of the Ukrainian president's press service, there is every reason to believe that Ukraine could very soon virtually secede from the CIS. Without a corresponding political statement or official protocol. At a closed session of parliament yesterday Leonid Kravchuk submitted to deputies a program of economic reforms aimed at achieving full independence from the economic policy of Russia and the other CIS states. Its basic idea is to end the situation whereby the majority of actions by the Ukrainian authorities have to be taken by way of a response to corresponding actions by the Russian Federation.

The draft program provides for a package of measures to be implemented, starting 1 April (the start of the further liberalization of prices in Russia), to completely withdraw rubles from monetary circulation and for radical structural changes to be made to the economy, finances, etc. Late yesterday evening the parliament approved the program's conceptual provisions.

Mindful of the fact that at the last meeting of CIS heads of state in Kiev Ukraine did not participate in the discussion of military questions, the possible rejection also of a concerted economic policy may perfectly well be regarded as the total cessation of its Commonwealth membership. Even if Kiev politicians avoid this term at present.

Deputy Interviewed on Session

LD2503204192 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2300 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Today, after a short break, the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet session resumed work. However, representatives of the mass media were not allowed into the conference hall. Petro Ostapenko reports:

[Ostapenko] The need to hold a closed session of the Supreme Soviet was discussed long ago. Some deputies

believed that issues requiring special discussion have now come to a head. These are: Further cooperation between the president, the Supreme Soviet, and the Cabinet of Ministers, the situation in the National Bank of Ukraine, and the fate of the Ukrainian national currency. Such a closed ssession took place today.

I asked people's deputy Larysa Skoryk to tell us at least in general outline about the discussion at the session:

[Ostapenko] Larysa Pavlivna, tell us if it was necessary to hold a closed session of the Supreme Soviet.

[Skoryk] Well, what can I say? If you take into account the fact that there are some secrets of state economic security here, then, to a certain extent, yes. Because if one can talk about the concept as a whole in the broad sense then these details which were discussed here - I think it was worth doing, because we have already blundered once, as it were, not only by presenting the (?introduction) of the new currency in Ukraine for national discussion but also by puffing it up at various levels - no state does that. And it is a matter here of not only economic independence but also of the economic security of the state.

[Ostapenko] So, I understand that issues of an economic nature were discussed today.

[Skoryk] You know that today there has been a report by the president on the main program of economic actions, namely strengthening [words indistinct] economic independence, which means translating economic independence into reality, because hitherto it did not exist. To exist in a single ruble space meant being constantly dependent. Moreover, it meant constantly and timidly, so to speak, following the lead of Russia which was far from always being for our good; to tell the truth, it almost never was.

I think that the issue which was discussed today was put radically and, I must say, in this case too the president's position attracts my respect. His understanding, and simply his orientation toward extremely fast, swift action in issues of our economic [words indistinct] which is as quick as lightning. I think it will not be a big secret that there is the president's program which is supported and, apparently, upheld very strongly and, in my opinion, in a very well-reasoned way by people's deputy Yemelyanov, who is now the president's state adviser on economic issues and Vice Premier Lanovyy, take a somewhat different stand, possibly in tactics, not to say anything about the strategy. And his stand does not impress me at all because I have been observing for a long time that he has a somewhat too theoretical view on things which in our [word indistinct] could stretch out for many months. He thinks that a complete transition at this moment to coupons, that is for coupons only, and settling accounts, which were proposed by the president and by state adviser Yemelyanov - the transition to settling accounts exclusively on the basis on hard currency, settling accounts with other states [words indistinct].

[Ostapenko] Larysa Pavlivna, the president has recently proposed to introduce an emergency economic situation in Ukraine. What do you think, will the deputies agree with him after today's session? Because the Supreme Soviet did not agree with the President on this.

[Skoryk] You see it is not that simple to count on or reckon whether everyone will agree and how they will agree to it because you know how diverse are our views. There are many different possibilities. And, incidentally, today it was extremely significant when my constant opponents—and they were very much against what the president and state adviser Yemelyanov stated—are more inclined toward very slow actions which could simply sink at some stage and completely stall. As far as I am concerned, I feel very sorry that such an emergency situation has not been introduced to this day because, strictly, an emergency situation in the economy would have to be introduced when the president proposes it.

[Ostapenko] Should one think that today's discussion at the closed session dotted the i's and crossed the t's in the strategy which now has to be adopted both by the government, the president, and the Supreme Soviet?

[Skoryk] To all appearances, I think, it will dot all i's in that existing permanent dilemma, so to speak, that we have: who is who in our politics.

Minimal Consumer Budget Set; Groups To Get Aid

AU2603115292 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1430 GMT 35 Mar 92

[Text] The minimal consumer budget in Ukraine constitutes 1,776 rubles. This figure was quoted at a meeting of the Supreme Council Commission for Questions of Social Policy and Labor. For many grandmothers and grandfathers the fixed minimum is, at the same time, maximum, emphasizes HOLOS UKRAYINY. It was pointed out at the meeting of the commission that, over the [current] quarter, more than 2 billion rubles will be allocated for assisting low-income strata of the population.

Second Round of Crimean Negotiations Begins

LD2503160192 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1006 GMT 24 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Kiev—Issue of the National Territorial Unit was not raised at the negotiations with the Crimean delegation, says deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Council Vladimir Grinev.

Commenting on the March 23 second round of negotiations on division of authority between the supreme councils of the Ukraine and Crimea, head of the Ukraine's delegation Vladimir Grinev told PF [POSTFACTUM]: The talks are moving along with great difficulties. Simferopol delegation again came to Kiev to discuss the treaty between the Ukraine and Crimea while the Ukrainian party cannot follow this way and suggests

discussing amendments in the Ukrainian legislature, including the constitution, which could define the rights of Crimea peoples. These are two essentially different things.

According to Grinev, the delegations are expected to conclude an agreement this time. After that the document will be discussed by Supreme Councils of the Ukraine and Crimea. Then the law on the Crimean republic will be endorsed. Crimean Tartars continue to picket the Supreme Council building in Kiev. They demand that the peninsula should become the autonomy of Crimean Tartars. According to Grinev, 200 more Tartars are expected to arrive in Kiev on March 24. As soon as the Supreme Council submits to the influence of Tartars it will immediately be sieged by two circles of Russians, emphasized Grinev.

Participants Detailed

LD2603114392 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 2300 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] A round table discussion was held in Simferopol with the participation of (Krasikova), deputy head of the Crimean Supreme Soviet, representatives of the town executive committee, and leaders of Ukrainian organizations of Crimea, the Popular Front, the Democratic Party of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Republican Party, the Ukrainian language society Prosvita [Education], and others. Representatives of Ukrainian organizations protested the anti-Ukrainian separatist campaign of the Republican Movement of Crimea against holding a local referendum on separating from Ukraine and also against ratifying the draft of the new constitution of Crimea in which there is no mention of Crimea being part of Ukraine. They demanded from Crimean representatives the opening of Ukrainian schools and newspapers. According to (Vitaliy Sasenko), head of the Crimean movement, they did not hear concrete answers from representatives of the Crimean authorities.

Deported Peoples of Crimea Foundation Formed

OW2503192892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1622 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Ukrainian government has passed a resolution on setting up a Foundation of deported peoples of Crimea. 5 million rubles from the state budget will be used to finance the state program of the return of the peoples expelled from Crimea in the 40s' to their historical homeland.

IF's [INTERFAX] correspondent reports that the foundation's administration will include three representatives of the Crimean Tatars, one of the Bulgarians, Armenians, Greeks and Germans elected for three years with the right of a decisive vote. The Committee on ethnic affairs of the Ukrainian government and the Crimean Council of Ministers will also have two representatives each in the foundation's administration elected for three years.

Crimean Independence Referendum Gains Support

OW2603125992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2030 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] More than 200,000 residents of the Crimea have signed an appeal supporting the referendum on independence, Yuriy Meshkov, the leader of the Krym (Crimea) movement, told IF [INTERFAX]. According to the law on the referendum, 180,000 signatures are enough to hold it. The referendum is expected to raise the following question: Do you come out for an independent republic of the Crimea united with other states?

In January 1991 the Crimeans held a referendum during which the voters were to answer whether they supported the idea of restoring the Crimean republic as a subject of the Union and a signatory to the Union treaty. Ninety two percent of the population said "Yes".

Yuriy Meshkov believes that the majority of the Crimeans favor independence and will reject the policies pursued by Kiev, where "the RUKH [Ukrainian People's Movement for Perestroyka] nationalists have taken the upper hand". He said that the Crimea did not have anything in common with that policy and would broaden relations with all the republics of the former Union, above all with Russia, with which it is linked by historical and economic bonds.

President's Representatives in Oblasts Appointed

AU2603112792 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian No 12 (58), Mar 92 p 2

[The following persons "Have Been Appointed as Representatives of Ukraine's President by Presidential Decrees":]

[Text] Maselskyy Oleksandr Stepanovych—in Kharkov Oblast;
Didyk Mykola Anatoliyovych—in Vinnytsa Oblast;
Smyrnov Yuriy Kostyantynovych—in Donetsk Oblast;
Yastreb Kostyantyn Pylypovych—in Cherkasy Oblast;
Davymuka Stepan Antonovych—in Lvov Oblast;
Demyanov Volodymyr Vasylyovych—in Zaporizhzhya Oblast;
Pavlyk Vasyl Ostapovych—in Ivano-Frankovsk Oblast;
Blazhenchuk Volodymyr Ivanovych—in Volyn Oblast;
Kapshtyk Ivan Markovych—in Kiev Oblast;
Saliy Ivan Mykolayovych—in Kiev.

Rukh Protests Appointments

AU2603113492 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Having analyzed the first appointments of the president's representatives in oblasts, the Lesser Council of Rukh [Ukrainian People's Movement for Perestroyka], as its statement reads, points out with anxiety that these representatives are largely well-known former top-echelon party and soviet conservative leaders who enjoy no support among the democratic forces. In the majority of cases, the recommendations of the democratic forces [word indistinct] have been ignored.

The Lesser Council of Rukh points out that, in view of the fact that the majority of the positions have not yet been occupied and taking into account the president's statement to the effect that, in his activity, he will seek Rukh's support, we advise that such appointments will render impossible a consolidation of all social forces on the road toward the development of an independent and democratic state and will compel the Rukh organization to occupy a stand of opposition to the presidential structures of the executive power in provinces.

The Lesser Council of this sociopolitical organization appealed to labor collectives, enterprises, organizations, institutions, and all citizens of the republic to give material assistance to Rukh. Rukh was compelled to ask for donations in view of the sharp price increase in Ukraine.

Belarus

Foreign Minister's U.S. Talks Discussed

PM2403153392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 3

[Aleksandr Shalnev report: "'Green Light' for Belarussian Diplomats in America"]

[Text] Washington—It is not ruled out that Belarussian diplomats will be the first representatives from the CIS countries for whom many restrictions on movements inside America will be lifted—including the restrictions that decree that any trip of more than 25 miles from the center of the city where the citizens of the former Union are permanently based has to be agreed in advance with the U.S. authorities.

The question of lifting the restrictions featured on the agenda of the talks and discussions held here by Belarussian Foreign Minister Petr Kravchenko. Undoubtedly this problem is not a key point in U.S.-Belarussian relations nor is it a key point in U.S.-Russian relations. There are more important things than travel restrictions. We cannot fail to observe that the problem between Washington and Minsk is being resolved, whereas—as far as I can judge from my own experience—there has been no progress between Washington and Moscow.

Turning to the main issues in the talks between the Belarussian minister and President Bush, Secretary of State Baker, and certain highly influential Senate figures, pride of place went to the range of disarmament problems and everything connected with them. According to my information this included, in particular, the question of Belarus' share of the $400 million which Congress has allocated in aid to the CIS countries for the process of disarmament and the destruction of arms—particularly nuclear arms.

If Minsk is granted the money it will be used, among other things, to solve the highly acute social problems already arising in connection with the withdrawal of tactical nuclear weapons from Belarussian territory. Illustrating the nature of the problems, P. Kravchenko referred in his discussion with me to the fact that, for instance, 10,000-15,000 missile officers will remain behind in Belarus with their families. Socioeconomic provision for them, including pension provision, will have to be borne by the Belarussian Government. Without going into the details of the talks, I would merely note that the idea of "Belarus' share" met with understanding in Washington.

I enquired whether the question had been raised during the Washington talks of the possible participation of Belarus—and of other nuclear Commonwealth countries—in the Russo-U.S. talks on strategic offensive weapons cuts. The reply given by the minister boiled down to saying that, although Belarus has an interest in direct participation in such talks, sensing the lack of any particular enthusiasm on the part of Moscow or Washington it will not categorically insist on this.

There was also discussion in Washington about how trade relations will develop between Belarus and America. Once again the impression was that Belarussians will be the first among the CIS countries to win most-favored-nation [MFN] status in trade—something taken away from the Soviet Union back in the early seventies.

Belarus is counting on a separate agreement with America, whose President was handed the other day, to use Kravchenko's words, a "kind of letter of guarantee" concerning the safeguarding of Belarussian citizens' basic rights and freedoms—above all, the right to enter and leave the country. Such guarantees have clearly been sought by the U.S. side, since, I recall, the USSR's loss of MFN status was brought about by restrictions on emigration from the Union.

Finally, the first Belarussian charge d'affaires in Washington was presented to the U.S. side. He is Sergey Nikolayevich Martynov.

Supreme Soviet First Vice Chairman Elected

LD2403214392 Moscow TASS in English 1335 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Minsk, March 24 BELTA-TASS—Forty-five-year-old Vyacheslav Kuznetsov was elected today the first vice-chairman of the Supreme Soviet during the session of the Belorussian parliament. Until his election to the present post he was head of the Sovetsky district council of people's deputies of Minsk.

Vyacheslav Kuznetsov is ethnic Russian. After graduating from the Minsk Radiotechnology Institute in 1970, he worked for three years in a factory. Later he was transferred to work in the Young Communist League, the Communist Party and Soviet organs.

Supreme Soviet Adopts Law on Land Ownership

LD2603102892 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1530 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Minsk, 25 Mar (BELTA-TASS)—There will be three forms of land ownership in Belarus: private, state, and collective. This has been decided by the republic's parliament, which today adopted on the first reading the law "On the right of ownership of land."

Land will be offered for private ownership to Belarus citizens who are permanent residents for a charge as well as for free, and to foreign investors for a charge with the agreement of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet in each specific instance or with the consent of the local soviets of people's deputies.

Economic Agreement Signed With Vietnam

LD2403132492 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2200 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Belarus and Vietnam have signed an agreement on economic and trade cooperation. The signing ceremony took place in Hanoi. Both sides will encourage the creation of joint ventures. Belarus has said it is prepared to use the Vietnamese workers at Belarussian construction projects and in industry. Some 60,000 Vietnamese workers are now working in Belarus.

New Coupons 'Very Similar To Real Money'

PM2403100192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Mar 92 First Edition p 7

[Untitled report from ITAR-TASS roundup under "Near Foreign Parts: News Items" rubric]

[Text] Minsk—It is proposed to introduce reusable coupons in Belarus. Bogdankevich, chairman of the board of the republic's National Bank, reported this news to a BELTA correspondent. While making no secret of the fact that the new coupons will appear on the Belarussian market in the very near future, the bank chief preferred to stay silent on specific dates and details, merely emphasizing: "Our coupons will be better than the Ukrainian ones and very similar to real money."

The old "one-shot" coupons, to use Bogdankevich's expression, which have "today been totally discredited," will be withdrawn.

To Have Limited Application

PM2603095592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "Belarus Prepares Its Own Coupons"]

[Text] Belarus intends to introduce reusable coupons. It has not been reported when.

The old "disposable" ones will be abolished. It is likely that the new coupons will only be used to pay for articles and goods in extremely short supply, which are subsidized through the budget.

Circulating Coupons 'Invalid'

LD2503161792 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1006 GMT 24 Mar 92

[From the "Domestic Market" section]

[Text] Minsk—Nikolay Lisay, deputy finance minister of Belarus, admitted that the coupons for whose introduction the republic has spent R400 million are invalid.

Devaluation of coupons was caused, in particular, by violations in the trade, widening of a list of the goods to be sold without the coupons, Nikolay Lisay said in an interview to the weekly 7 DNEY on March 23. At present, in Minsk one coupon can be bought from private persons for 15-20 kopeks.

Three Private Banks Nearing Bankruptcy

OW2603070492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1308 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Three Belarussian commercial banks, Agroprombank, Promstroibank, and Mogobank (located in Mogilev), are on the verge of bankruptcy.

The republic's National Bank has informed Interfax that the announcement of their financial insolvency would come sometime today. However, Belarussian businesses, including rival banks, decided not to "ruin" their banking colleagues, but, on the contrary, to give them financial support so that faith in private banking would not be undermined.

Humanitarian Aid Reportedly Stolen

LD2503221592 Moscow TASS in English 0933 GMT 25 Mar 92

[By CRIME-PRESS correspondent Vladimir Levin—TASS]

[Text] Minsk, March 25 TASS—Humanitarian aid is stolen from charity foundations and organizations, according to Yuriy Malumov, a senior official of the Belarussian Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Police and security forces accompany the aid shipments to the intended address, Malumov told CRIME-PRESS, but they are unaware of the contents of the boxes.

"Our mission ends once the number of boxes has been accounted for," Malumov said. "After that it all depends on the honesty and efficiency of those distributing the contents."

The republic has reported some 20 thefts of humanitarian aid, such as workers of the district's department of education stealing packages intended for children, or the head doctor of a city hospital hiding equipment and medicine intended for thousands of sailors in his apartment and summer cottage.

Helping Belarus through the "Children of Chernobyl" Foundation, directed by Belarussian People's Deputy Gennadiy Grushevoy, is only a waste of money, said Erich Zauer, representative of the Bavarian Charitable Society, after learning about the fund's activities. "Grushevoy nevers troubles himself with keeping books about incoming shipments or the distribution of aid," Zauer told ITAR-TASS.

Moldova

Russian Supreme Soviet Appeal Rejected

LD2503152492 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1200 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] The Moldovan parliament has described the 20 March appeal from the Russian Supreme Soviet in connection with the Dnestr conflict as an unfriendly act toward Moldova.

This was the reaction expressed in a statement by Moldovan legislators. The statement stresses additional escalation of the aggression against a sovereign state is taking place. Armed units of Cossacks are continuing to arrive in Moldova from Russian territory. On 12 March the Bank of Russia decided to promote the destruction of the unified banking system of Moldova. Russian media are conducting a single-minded campaign in support of the illegal government bodies on Moldova's left bank.

At the same time, Moldova's supreme legislative body received with satisfaction the statement of the CIS heads of state, including Russia, adopted in Kiev on 20 March, in which the principle of the inviolability of the borders and of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova is resolved. The striving of its leadership to normalize by political means the situation which has arisen is receiving support.

The Moldovan parliament called on Russia's Supreme Soviet to speed up the ratification of the treaty on the principles of interstate relations between Moldova and Russia and the opening of each other's embassies in Chisinau and Moscow.

Parliament Statement Criticizes Russian Stance

AU2503194192 Bucharest ROMPRES in 1836 English 25 Mar GMT 92

[Text] Chisinau (ROMPRES) 25/3/1992—The parliament of the Republic of Moldova has received with satisfaction the statement of the heads of state of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kirghizstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tadzhikistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine on the situation in the districts on the left bank of the Dnestr of the Republic of Moldova, adopted in Kiev on March 20, 1992 whereby they unconditionally recognize the principle of inviolability of frontiers and of the territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova, support its leadership's aspiration after normalizing the situation by political means, reads a statement of the legislative forum of the Republic of Moldova released by MOLDOVA PRES.

Stressing that despite the efforts made, the aggression against a sovereign state is further intensified, and the districts on the left bank of the Dnestr of the Republic of Moldova are being occupied by unlawful military groups of the separatists who have received weapons not without the permission of the former command of the 14th Army and by the detachments of Russian Cossacks, the statement reads: Against the background of the accords reached and in conditions in which the aforementioned actions are common knowledge of the whole world, the appeal of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation of March 20, 1992 is a reason for amazement since its content is another proof of Russia's stand which neglects in this case the principle of non-interference in the domestic affairs of states and of respect for their sovereignty, a principle sanctioned in the United Nations Charter and in the documents of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Calling the Republic of Moldova and the Dnestr region "parties to the conflict" suggesting the parliament of the Republic of Moldova what political measures it should undertake to normalize the situation, denying the right of the native population, which makes up the majority in the districts left of the Dnestr, to maintaining the territorial integrity of Moldova and recognizing the separatists' right to plead for the self-determination of the "Dnestr people" as it is called in the appeal, the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation creates a precedent which can deteriorate the situation not only in Moldova but also in Russia.

The parliament of the Republic of Moldova, reiterating its unflinching adhesion to the principles sanctioned in international juridical acts proposes the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation to take all the necessary measures to observe the pledges in the March 20, 1992 heads of state statement, to speed up the ratification of the Treaty on Interstate Relations Between the Republic of Moldova and the Russian Federation, to intensify activity to the end of amending its provisions, to speed up the opening of embassies, the statement released by MOLDOVA PRES reads.

Interior Minister Antoci Briefs Parliament

AU2503143492 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1312 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 25/3/1992—The top executives of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Moldova held a meeting with the commanders of the military units situated in the territory of Moldova, also attended by Prime Minister Valeriu Muravschi, MOLDOVA-PRES reports.

The attendance learned about the basic principles of the national army's formation, its structure, the laws adopted by the parliament with regard to the creation of its own army, as well as the decree of the president of the republic on passing the military units under the jurisdiction of the republic, a fact also written down at the recent meeting in Kiev through the signing of the respective documents by the Commander of the CIS forces, Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov and the Government of Moldova.

Premier Valeriu Muravschi and Minister of Defence Ion Costas mentioned that Moldova's officials have those issues permanently in view, including the social security of the military.

The commanders were requested to maintain calm and discipline in their units, to allow no one to take out armament, equipment and assets belonging to the military patrimony of the republic. In case that someone violates the laws of the Republic of Moldova, he shall be punished according to the Penal Code.

The minister of the interior of the Republic of Moldova, Constantin Antoci, called today on the parliament of the republic "to stop the war," all while asserting that the Ministry of the Interior backs the Moldovan president's line on a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Transdnestria.

In his address to the parliament, he called the deputies' attention to the fact that the Dnestr guardsmen continue to be mobilized on the left bank of the Dnestr river, equipped with the latest types of weapons, and new Cossack brigades came from Russian regions. The police section in the town of Bender is attacked by illegal groups of Transdnestria, the speaker said, being quoted by ITAR-TASS.

Fighting Continues in Dnestr Region

LD2503142692 Moscow TASS in English 1356 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow, March 25 ITAR-TASS—Fighting between guards from the Dnestr area and Moldovan police continued throughout Monday [23 March] and Tuesday [24 March] in the area of Dubossary, on the left bank of the Dnestr in the east of Moldova, an area with predominantly Russian-speaking population.

A report transmitted by PRIDNESTROVIYE news agency to ITAR-TASS, policemen fired from automatic arms, grenade launchers and mortars on the positions of guards and Cossacks from the Kuban who came to their assistance. The police launched attacks supported by armoured vehicles.

The casualties sustained by supporters of the breakaway Dnestr Moldovan Republic, unrecognised by Chisinau, resulting from armed clashes on the banks of the Dnestr in March, amounted to more than 30 killed and about one hundred wounded, PRIDNESTROVIYE news agency reported.

Chisinau, March 25 TASS—By MOLDOVA-PRESS-TASS: Intensive shootouts between Moldovan police and the militants of the breakaway Dnestr region took place on Tuesday [24 March] and Wednesday [25 March] night wounding five policemen and four civilians, according to the Moldovan Interior Ministry.

Civilians supported Moldovan police while Russian Cossacks joined the Dnestr militants, spokesman for the ministry Dumitru Korletyanu told TASS on Wednesday. Shooting lasted through the night also in the city of Bendery. No reports on casualties have been available yet, he added.

Defense Minister Orders CIS Arms Turned Over

LD2503155892 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1437 GMT 25 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Tiraspol (Dnestr region of Moldova), 25 Mar (ITAR-TASS)—Part of the weapons and equipment withdrawn on 23 March from the 14th Army base of the CIS Armed Forces in Floreshty have been sent to Chisinau, while another portion is at positions on the right bank of the Dnestr. Information obtained by the ITAR-TASS correspondent from reliable sources verifies this.

Ten armed artillery gun tractors (MTLB) were removed from stores and delivered by former drivers mobilized from Beltsy, Soroka, and Floreshty. Subsequently, a further five MTLBs, three ZPU-23 anti- aircraft machine gun mountings, 7,000 rounds of ammunition, and 11 boxes of grenades were similarly turned over. This act was carried out by Colonel Karasev, base commander, on the instructions of Moldovan Defense Minister Lieutenant General Ion Kostash.

The "green light" has been given to setting up a Moldovan National Army on the basis of the weapons and equipment of certain units of the 14th Army stationed in the right bank zone. It is not excluded that this is happening with the knowledge of the military authorities.

Meanwhile, according to reports from the same sources, the depots of the 14th Army on the left bank (Dnestr region) have been mined and armored vehicles have been put out of action; their batteries and carburetors were removed and their turrets were jammed. Officers's families and their belongings are being transported out of the conflict area.

Casualties Reported in Transdnestrian Skirmishes

AU2503184592 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1718 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Chisinau, ROMPRES 25/3/1992—The situation in Transdnestria continues to be tense, the MOLDOVA-PRES agency correspondent informs quoting the press department of Moldova's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. So, in the March 24-25 night, in the Vovieri-Bender region along the Dnestr, intense firings continued between policemen and guardsmen. Local people participated in the fight on policemen's behalf while the guardsmen benefitted from the help of Cossack formations from Russia.

Dumitru Corlateanu, head of the Department for the Relationship With the Public of Moldova's Ministry of the Interior, announced that following the firings near village Cocieri five policemen and 4 civilians were wounded. The same source informed that during the

night firings continued near the town of Bender but the number of the victims has not yet been established.

Police Troops Defend Positions Near Dubossary

AU2503214292 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 2000 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Regarding the situation on the left bank of the Dnestr River, here is a dispatch received half an hour ago from our Chisinau correspondent Gabriel Ionescu:

[Begin Ionescu recording] Esteemed listeners, this evening I returned from the left bank of the Dnestr, where the situation is more than tense. The Interior Ministry police forces control the area between Vadul lui Voda, Cosnita, (?Dorotskaya), Pogrebea, and (?Verszhiskoye) villages, up to about 10 kilometers south of Dubossary. North of Dubossary, the positions around Cosnita are also being firmly defended by the Interior Ministry troops.

During the morning, intense machine gun fire could be heard in the Cosnita area. The guards and Cossacks are using Grad-type weapons. Several policemen were wounded, but no official casualty count has been issued. [end recording]

Army Commander on Continuing Dnestr Conflict

PM2603114492 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 25 Mar 92 p 1

[Colonel V. Gavrilenko, Colonel N. Mulyar, Major A. Stasovskiy report: "Still No Peace on the Banks of the Dnestr"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] We asked Dmitriy Corletianu, chief of the Republic of Moldova MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] Public Relations Administration, to comment by phone on the events in Moldova and the Dnestr region in recent days:

"However much people attempt to convince us that interethnic clashes are taking place, they are not succeeding. In the first place because people of various nationalities are dying on both sides: Moldovan, Russian, Ukrainian... The participation of Russian Cossacks in the events cannot help but give cause for concern. This exacerbates the situation. By all appearances, it will be increasingly difficult to come to an agreement in the future and in the meantime there are more and more deaths. The Dnestr side is concealing them, but even so the Dnestr region's official authorities have nevertheless been forced to report that they have had 32 deaths among the guards and Cossacks."

Women from the Dnestr region, under Galina Andreyeva's leadership, have again demanded that the military give out arms and equipment.

"The Dnestr region mass media are accusing me," Major General Yu. Netkachev, commander of the 14th Army, says, "of observing neutrality, and they are putting out rumors among the population claiming that weapons and combat equipment are being put out of action at my command to prevent them getting into the guards' and Cossacks' hands. This is lies and slander. Just as the Army has observed neutrality hitherto, so it will continue to adhere to it. [passage omitted]

Pressure on the military in the Dnestr region is growing all the time. Maintaining neutrality is becoming more and more difficult with each day.

So the conflict in the Dnestr region has flared up with new vigor. Unfortunately, they cannot hear each other on either side of the Dnestr. Reasonable statements and businesslike proposals on settling the conflict (and they do exist) are drowned out by mutual accusations and cursing. The reports received by the editorial staff are patent proof of this. Each of the sides is still giving its own mutually exclusive interpretation of events.

P.S. Our correspondent Captain 3d Rank A. Pelts reports that during a 24 March press conference given by Grigoriy Marcuti, chairman of the Dnestr Moldovan Republic Supreme Soviet, the hope was expressed that Russia and Ukraine will help to settle the conflict in the region by peaceful means.

The chairman of parliament emphasized that the republic has no desire to dismember Moldova or secede from it. The struggle is for the right to self-determination, for a federation within Moldova.

Correspondent Reports on Transdnestrian Situation

AU2603110392 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 0500 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] [Announcer] A short while ago, our correspondent Gabriel Ionescu in Chisinau reported on the situation in the Republic of Moldova as follows:

[Begin Ionescu recording] The parliament of the Republic of Moldova will resume its session on 26 March at 0700 GMT, allotting some time to representatives of the government to give a briefing. They are eagerly looking forward to the briefing by the executive concerning events in the rayons on the left bank of the Dnestr River, especially because official news from the conflict area has been scarce lately.

Last night I visited some settlements on the left bank of the Dnestr, which are now under the control of forces of the republic's Interior Ministry. The bridge at Vadul lui Voda, about 20 kms east of Chisinau, is damaged, as it was blown up by the separatists. However, it has been partially put into operation again to let official vehicles cross. Numerous police checkpoints have been set up. In the area around the villages of Cosnita, (?Dorotskaya), and Pogreba, which are surrounded by a bend of the Dnestr River, automatic rifle fire was reported last night. Last evening guardsmen and Cossacks fired rockets from the (?Crati) military installations at Cosnita and

Pogreba, aiming to set these settlement ablaze. A surveillance helicopter of the separatists flew over the area at a great height.

The situation also continues to remain tense in the area north of Dubossary, where heavy gunfire was reported on the morning of 25 March near the locality of Cocieri. Police forces fighting in the first trenches near Cosnita reported that separatist forces are concentrated in the southeastern part, in the area around the town of (?Grigoryopol). They do not exclude the possibility of an attack being launched by guardsmen and mercenary Cossacks.

Esteemed listeners, the situation in the east of Moldova not only concerns the leadership of the republic, but also the neighboring states. Last night, the president of the parliament, Mr. Alexandru Mosanu, met with a group of deputies of the Supreme Soviet of the Ukraine led by the president of the Permanent Commission for Foreign Relations, (?Dimitriy Katichko). The Ukrainian parliamentarians stated their wish to learn about the position of Moldova's top leadership concerning ways of solving the Transdnestrian conflict, as the Ukraine is worried about events taking place on the left bank of the Dnestr, near the Ukrainian frontier. The leader of the delegation announced that the Ukraine will not give up the basic principle of inviolability of Moldova's state borders and that it will take steps to close access to the conflict area. President Mircea Snegur will receive this parliamentary group on 26 March.

I would also like to mention that according to Ukrainian President Kravchuk's decree regarding steps to watch Ukraine's state borders along the Republic of Moldova, the government of this country issued a special conditions statute for this border area. According to this, bodies in charge are entitled to check ID's and to search persons, their belongings, and the vehicles in which they travel. The statute also provides for expelling from that area persons who do not comply with these special conditions, or who disturb public order.

[Signed] Gabriel Ionescu, Chisinau. [end recording]

Dnestr 'President' Orders Partial Mobilization

LD2603120892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] According to the Moldovan Interior Ministry, the Dubossary region was relatively calm overnight. Shots were heard, but there have been no reports of clashes or casualties. According to Moldovan presidential adviser Oazu Nantoy, Chisinau is in permanent contact with Tiraspol so as to keep the situation under control.

According to a report by the Dnestr region's independent news agency NAP, an attack on the building of the former Dubossary police directorate was launched from the right bank of the Dnestr early this morning. Automatic fire was heard in the streets of the town. The dam of the Dubossary hydroelectric power station was also fired on. According to a NAP report, the Dnestr republic's president has issued a decree that provides for a partial mobilization of reservists.

Tajikistan

Demonstrators Demand Dushanbe Mayor's Release

OW2203162392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1457 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A rally has been held in Dushanbe today (March 22) in protest against the pro-communist dictatorship established in Tajikistan. It was organized by the Democratic Party of Tajikistan and the Rastokhez Popular Movement, and was attended by between 1,500 and 2,000 people. The direct reason for the meeting was the arrest of the chairman of the Dushanbe city executive committee, Maksud Ikramov, which the democrats regard as an illegal attempt to get rid of him.

The Democratic Party asked the authorities for a permission to hold the rally but the request was not granted either the city executive committee or the cabinet of ministers.

The Dushanbe city council of people's deputies is opening a session tomorrow at which it will consider the election of a new executive committee chairman.

Opposition leaders in Dushanbe believe Ikramov's case will be quashed and he will be released as soon as a new chairman is elected.

New Mayor Appointed

LD2503052992 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1800 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] In accordance with a decision by the ninth session of the soviet of people's deputies of the city of Dushanbe of the 21st convocation, which was held on 23 March 1992, Ikramov was relieved from the post of the chairman of the executive committee of the city of Dushanbe.

Comrade Mirzo Timur Mirzoyev was appointed chairman of the executive committee of the city of Dushanbe in accordance with a decree by Rakhman Nabiyev, the president of the Republic of Tajikistan, and the advice of the soviet of people's deputies of the city of Dushanbe.

New Republican Party To 'Unite' Society

LD2503093992 Moscow TASS in English 0944 GMT 24 Mar 92

[By Unidentified TAJIKITA-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Dushanbe March 24—The new party, Republican, appeared on the political scene in Tajikistan. The party's organising committee stated that the economic, political and social situation in the republic necessitates "the foundation of a new political party which could unite creative forces of society and would have a specific programme of overcoming the crisis".

The main tasks of the party include the construction of democratic rule-of-law state. Republicans, recognising the freedom of conscience of every citizen, preclude the possibility of the construction of society on religious and ideological grounds, declare for the preservation of Tajikistan's integrity and condemn separatism. The new party will be striving to strengthen economic and cultural ties with all republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The party also proclaims adherence to the market economy "with the equality of all forms of property".

A. Ochilov, former deputy chairman of Tajikistan's Democratic Party, was elected chairman of the organising committee which is to draft the party's regulations and programme and to prepare the constituent congress of the party. The organising committee of the republican party includes N. Saivaliyev who was one of the initiators of creating the Democratic Party of Tajikistan and member of its board and presidium. He left the Democratic Party in protest against the policy of its leaders aimed at splitting Tajikistan.

Officials Discuss Food Supply Problems

LD2503220492 Dushanbe Radio Dushanbe Network in Tajik 1800 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Rakhman Nabiyev, president of Tajikistan, on 25 March met with leaders of the executive committee of the soviet of people's deputies of Dushanbe city. He congratulated Mirzoyev on his appointment as chairman of the executive committee of Dushanbe city and wished him (?success) in his work. At the same time, the president stated that there are many problems in the city in need of solutions which can only be resolved through joint effort. The city is expanding rapidly and its population increasing. Every resident of the city has his own difficulties and problems. This ought not to be forgotten. Dushanbe is the capital of the republic and our [words indistinct] home.

Recently, the city's foodstuff supplies have faced problems. Rayons and oblasts do not attach sufficient importance in supplying Dushanbe. The president expressed the hope that the new leadership of the executive committee of the city will establish practical relations with farms, enterprises, and institutions.

Armenia

President Declares Economic State of Emergency

LD2603035292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0200 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] An economic state of emergency regime has been introduced in Armenia, ITAR-TASS reports. In this connection, on 25 March a decree by the republic's President Levon Ter-Petrosyan was published on measures for the vital provision of the population and industrial enterprises. As noted in the document, the state of emergency has been introduced in connection with the serious energy crisis, blockade of the republic's transport communications with the outside world, and military action in the border areas.

In accordance with the decree, a headquarters for operational administration has been set up headed by Vice President Gagik Arutunyan. An around-the-clock duty is being introduced at ministries, departments, enterprises, and executive bodies of power. A special regime for protecting the most important state facilities will also be implemented.

Situation Detailed

PM2603103592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Sergey Bablumyan report: "Armenia: Emergency Situation May Develop Into Economic State of Emergency"]

[Text] Yerevan—Judging by appearances, a state of economic emergency may soon be introduced in Armenia.

This is heralded by a presidential decree on measures to ensure the survival of the economy and protect the population in the conditions of the emergency situation which has developed in the republic in respect of the economy.

The fuel and energy crisis has reached the breaking point. Here are some statistics: As a result of the railroad and gas pipeline blockade and the minimizing of energy supplies to Armenia, industry has been operating at 10-12 percent of its capacity during the first two months of the current year. The losses from the forced stoppages have already topped 650 million rubles [R]. According to Armenian State Minister Ruben Chiftalaryan, Armenia's economy has sustained losses of more than R4 billion since the beginning of the blockade. There is a fuel shortage. The spring sowing is in jeopardy. It is a hand-to-mouth situation, with every liter of gasoline being poured into the tanks as soon as it arrives.

It has to be said that Turkey has also dealt a tangible blow to Armenia's economy. On the pretext of halting arms deliveries to Armenia, it has banned transportation of humanitarian aid via its territory.

In these circumstances, despite all its rigor and clearly pronounced emphasis on strong-arm, command methods of managing the economy, the Armenian president's decree looks like a forced but necessary step which offers a hope of rescue. It is possible right now to foresee the difficulties that could arise in implementing specifically the point of the presidential decree which authorizes executive authorities to dismiss officials who violate discipline or fail to ensure the implementation of operational management staff instructions.

Armenian State Minister Grigoriy Areshyan told journalists that, in the event that an economic state of emergency is introduced in the republic, bread coupons cannot be ruled out, and this in turn could cause a social explosion. Incidentally, it is envisaged that the bread rations would be entirely adequate, but in view of the fact that bread is increasingly becoming the main food, any rationing is bound to affect people's interests.

Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan is expected to make a statement in the next few days setting out the government's economic program.

Economy Staff Established

NC2303210692 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian 1950 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Decree issued by President Ter-Petrosyan "on measures to ensure the vital activity of the population and of the economy under the republic's extraordinary situation"; place, date not given]

[Text] The decree notes in particular that the entire work of all the agencies of the republic's executive power should be organized by the need to ensure the vital activity [kensagortsum] of the population and of the economy under this extraordinary economic situation.

The Armenian Republic Government is instructed to draw up within three days a plan of action to deal with the prevailing situation, including precise and coordinated measures to ensure the operational administration [operativ karavarum] of all the areas of the republic's life.

To create a Republican Operational Administrative Staff [operativ karavarman hanrapetakan shtap] under the leadership of Gagik Arutyunyan, vice president and prime minister, to ensure the unimpeded operation of the vital activity of the population and of the most important economic installations.

To appoint the Armenian Republic State Minister Ruben Chiftalaryan as the deputy leader of the Republican [Operational Administrative] Staff.

To confirm the composition of the staff by the Armenian Government.

The full text of the decree will be published in the press.

Iranian Official on Solution to Conflict

OW2503174492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1519 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Report by M. Mayorov and I. Porshnev from "Diplomatic Panorama"; Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] All the parties concerned believe that the truce in Nagorno-Karabakh should be continued. DP's [Diplomatic Panorama] correspondent reports from Yerevan that this was announced by the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi, who had visited Armenia's capital.

As M. Va'ezi pointed out, Iran's mediatory efforts aim to achieve a settlement acceptable to all, not condemn one of the conflicting sides. He explained Tehran's interest in stabilization of the situation with the fact that a large number of Armenians and Azeris live in Iran.

With reference to Russia's mediation in the endeavours to resolve the Karabakh conflict M. Vaezi said he hopes that it will be very useful and speed up the establishment of peace in the region.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister also said that another phase in the efforts to settle the conflict began last Saturday [21 March] in the framework of a trilateral agreement signed in Tehran last week. This includes exchanges of prisoners and the killed, search for the missing, lifting of the economic blockade, ensurance of conditions for prolonging the truce and the use of peacekeeping forces in the region. The latter point requires additional consultations however.

Four committees set up by Iran are monitoring the ceasefire, said Va'ezi. They are based in Yerevan, Stepanakert (Khankendy), Baku and Agdam. The committees are designed to investigate every incidence of ceasefire violation.

Countries Criticized for Opposition to Mediation

NC2503220292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] In an interview in Yerevan, Mahmud Va'ezi, Iranian deputy minister of foreign affairs, has said that the countries opposed to Iran's mediation in the Karabakh problem are also opposed to peace and noted that Iran has undertaken a serious responsibility and that Tehran welcomes any cooperation from foreign countries. Regarding Iran's stand on the U.S. and Turkish opposition to its mediation effort, Va'ezi said: The clashing sides, Armenia and Azerbaijan, have asked Iran to mediate in the Karabakh problem. Our policy is based on the principle of maintaining good relations. In view of this, Iran does not favor chaos in the area and believes that deceptive forces stand to gain from a large-scale battle in the region. Therefore, Iran will welcome initiatives by any country aimed at contributing toward peace in the region.

Va'ezi also rejected the view that the war in Karabakh has a religious aspect. He said: We have concluded from our talks with the clashing sides that the fighting in Karabakh is not at all related to religious differences.

Border Could Become 'Region of Active Combat'

PM2503122092 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Sergey Bablumyan report: "Combat Operations on Some Stretches of Armenia-Azerbaijan Border"]

[Excerpts] Yerevan—There are grounds for believing that the border area between Armenia and Azerbaijan could become a region of active combat operations.

Information has been received that considerable armed forces and combat hardware have been concentrated in a number of stretches of the border on the Azerbaijani side. At the same time, residents are being evacuated from border villages, livestock is being moved out, and soldiers are taking over the empty buildings. [passage omitted]

Grigor Grigoryan, Armenian deputy defense minister, has reported that constant telephone contact has been maintained with the Azerbaijani military department leadership with a view to deterring clashes between armed formations. The deputy minister noted that since the morning of 23 March things had been quiet all along the border, but the situation remains worrying.

Civilians, Soldiers Clash Over Withdrawal

NC2503173692 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian 1630 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] The situation remains tense in Nagorno-Karabakh. The Azerbaijanis killed Vladimir Israelyan, 33, of Stepanakert on Mardakert-Leninavan road at 2300 on 23 March as he was traveling in his car. The road was fired on from Azerbaijan's Terterskiy Rayon. The Armenian village of Nakhichevanik on 24 March was subjected to intensive shelling from Shelli village in Agdamskiy Rayon. Village resident Aramayis (?Asryan) was injured and taken to Stepanakert Hospital.

Rumors that the border guards detachment stationed in Gadrutskiy would be moved to Azerbaijan caused concern. To prevent this, a group of local Armenians went to the unit and began to negotiate with detachment Commander Gennadiy Rutskoy. There was a disagreement, however, and a clash ensued between the sides, during which one of the locals is believed to have been killed and a number of others injured. The soldiers and local residents later came to a mutual understanding following talks with the border guard detachment command.

[Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian at 1500 GMT on 25 March also reports: "The Azerbaijanis opened artillery and gun fire yesterday evening on [names indistinct] villages in Tavushskiy Rayon, damaging two houses. A group of brigands attempted to enter

Azatamart village. The village's self-defense detachments, assisted by internal affairs department staffers, inflicted an appropriate counter strike and repulsed them. According to preliminary reports, the enemy suffered losses and the Armenian side seized automatic weapons." The radio adds that the "border regions in Tavushskiy Rayon came under fire from automatic weapons and machine guns."]

State Security Chief Comments on Directorate

NC2503150592 Yerevan HAYASTAN in Armenian 5 Mar 92 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Valeriy Vagarshakovich Pogosyan, head of Armenia's State Directorate for National Security, SDNS, by Dzhivan Balagyozyan; place and date not given]

[Text] [Balagyozyan] Mr. Pogosyan: Has anything changed following the replacement of the Committee for State Security [CSS] by the State Directorate for National Security, SDNS, or is it merely a cosmetic change?

[Pogosyan] It is not merely a cosmetic name change. The CSS had become a powerful instrument in the hands of the communist party to fight and trample the rights of the native people. The CSS was also expected to be loyal to the regime and to the totalitarian administration. Now that we have a democratic state, the Armenian state no longer needs the CSS as the "revolution's sword of retribution." Today we need a different type of organization dedicated to serving the state's interests.

[Balagyozyan] If you can, would you tell us what the president told you when he appointed you to this post?

[Pogosyan] He spoke briefly, reminding me that as a qualitatively different structure, the SDNS' supreme goal should be the defense of national security and democracy.

[Balagyozyan] For years the CSS served the ideology faithfully and earnestly.

[Pogosyan] Armenia's SDNS will serve the ideology, but the ideology of statehood, not that of specific party or class.

There was widespread hypocrisy and cruelty in that ideology which the world renounced, and it was only natural that the CSS, an important instrument of the CPSU and of the state, reflected those problems in its activities. In fact, for that reason it was more of a sword then a shield.

[Balagyozyan] What were your feelings when you stepped into this building?

[Pogosyan] Most of those who pass by the building are probably drawn into the magnetic field of its grim mystery. It is a building whose walls preserve the tragic moments in the lives and fate of hundreds of thousands of people. However I entered this building for the first time without experiencing any psychological apprehension or any other problem. This was probably because I knew that the organization had been renewed in the first days of the victory of democracy. Nothing of the past has remained here now, except the once frightening image of the CSS. The hands and conscience of people who are now working here are not stained, though they all are cadre workers. As such, while walking in the building's corridors and flats I do not see criminals and tyrants—forgive me for these crude expressions—among our (note that I am already saying our) employees.

[Balagyozyan] Does a political intelligence service exist in the republic today?

[Pogosyan] No. It was disbanded following the collapse of the totalitarian regime. That happened before my appointment.

[Balagyozyan] Please tell me if the leaders of political parties which are not always in agreement with the views of the president of Armenia or the Armenian Government can sleep in peace.

[Pogosyan] They are already sleeping in peace. I cannot remember even one case of someone complaining of political "insomnia." They can sleep in peace provided that none of them infringes on the state's security, honor, or dignity.

[Balagyozyan] Before, when the world was divided into two hostile political blocs, it was clear that "those who were not with us were against us." Who could be our enemy today? To use the symbolic terms of the former CSS, towards whom we should turn our sword and shield?

[Pogosyan] There is no need to look for enemies. That was done enough in past decades. It is better to look for partners for cooperation on equal terms. This is the civilized way and our independent state, the Republic of Armenia, should follow this line. We are not infringing on anyone's security, but of course we will not allow others to infringe on ours.

Unfortunately, an internal enemy, organized crime, has already emerged among us. We have started an uncompromising struggle against it.

[Balagyozyan] Lately the press has been writing about informers, and sometimes demands are made to publish their names.

[Pogosyan] There is no need to do that. It is not possible to divide the society between the good and the bad. Let us not forget that it was often the system, which bolstered the regime and the administration, that pushed people into becoming informers. Not all of them were contemptible persons. Some people were actually taken in by the propaganda and thought that they were helping the society in its struggle against its enemies. They too are the victims of that inhuman regime.

[Balagyozyan] Can you assure the people of Armenia and all the citizens of the republic that the SDNS will abide by the principles found in the universal declaration of human rights and in other international acts and it will regulate its legal foundations since it does not have any by-laws yet?

[Pogosyan] Citizens are legally protected under the Armenian Constitution. Yet, the question has a point. The SDNS needs its own by-laws. A draft is ready and we hope that the Armenian Supreme Soviet will adopt it soon.

[Balagyozyan] The USSR no longer exists; we have the CIS instead. How are the SDNS' relations organized with the similar organizations of CIS, in particular with the Russian Federation?

[Pogosyan] Ours is a cooperation based on equality, neither party infringes on the other.

[Balagyozyan] To what degree are the special services of Armenia and Azerbaijan cooperating now, when bilateral relations are so strained? Are efforts underway to find ways of bringing their positions closer for the sake of regional peace and tranquillity?

[Pogosyan] I hope that the relations between the two countries will improve. For the time being, our cooperation is limited to local affairs, such as negotiations pertaining to the exchange of hostages.

[Balagyozyan] One last question. The mass media in Baku recently announced that Armenian mercenaries from other countries are operating in Nagorno-Karabakh. To what extent are such claims true?

[Pogosyan] If they are true, why don't they produce any proof? This claim is made to confuse the international community.

Azerbaijan

Nagorno-Karabakh Rejected as Site for Talks

LD2603114892 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Azerbaijan has turned down Nagorno-Karabakh as a site for the forthcoming talks with Armenia. An agreement on holding the talks was reached within the framework of the Conference of Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Armenia has rejected a statement by Azerbaijan that Armenian armed formations captured seven CIS servicemen in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Mkrtchyan on Negotiations

LD2603115692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1045 GMT 26 Mar 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Mar (TASS)—In a telephone conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, Nagorno-Karabakh Supreme Soviet Chairman Artur Mkrtchyan expressed the hope that the Minsk conference on Nagorno-Karabakh "will not meet the fate of previous peacemaking efforts, which were broken off partly because representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh itself did not take part in solving the problem."

The international conference on Nagorno-Karabakh, which is to take place shortly in Minsk within the CSCE framework, is being convened under a French proposal. At the invitation of the chairman, a delegation from Nagorno-Karabakh is to take part as an "interested party." Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier, who is chairing the CSCE, is to come to Nagorno-Karabakh at the end of March or the beginning of April.

For the moment, the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, which is attracting international attention, remains tense, in spite of the conclusion of a cease-fire agreement. Even during the telephone conversation between an ITAR-TASS correspondent and Artur Mkrtchyan at midday today, five artillery shells were fired at Stepanakert from Shusha. So far there have been no reports of casualties or damage.

Iranian Official Describes Peace Process

LD2603120692 Tehran IRNA in English 0957 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Moscow, March 26, IRNA—Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi said in Baku Wednesday [25 March] that the temporary ceasefire which continues to hold in Karabakh since last Friday [20 March], was an indication to the confidence the republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia had in Iran. Va'ezi who is on a peace shuttle to the Caucasus arrived in Baku from Yerevan the Armenian capital Tuesday night, to review reports on instances of ceasefire violations in Agdam, Khankendy and Shusha.

In a telephone conversation with IRNA here, Va'ezi said that in his talks with Armenian and Azerbaijani officials, he had found out that the two republics had deeply realized that Iran was a "trustworthy and powerful neighbour." This fact, he added, serves as a basis for negotiations between the two parties for bringing closer their viewpoints. "We wish nothing for the people of Azerbaijan and Armenia but prosperity and development in light of peace, stability and security. We hope Iran's relations with these two countries would continue on the basis of goodwill and reciprocal confidence," Va'ezi said.

He advised other countries in the region to keep pace with Iran in this path and join hands in order to dispel poverty, backwardness, grudge and hostility out of their borders, thus contributing to a stable and developed region.

Va'ezi who is in charge of Euro-American affairs at the Foreign Ministry, made it clear that "presently suspicious hands are exploiting ethnic expansionist tendencies and fanning flames of discord and differences to create tension." He noted that the first step in Iran's peace plan is to extend the ceasefire until the proposed summit meeting between heads of state of the republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia. The next step, disclosed Va'ezi, is to draft a final statement for the summit through cooperation of all parties involved, on the basis of the Tehran communique, to specify measures for restoring the conditions to normal.

On the reported cases of ceasefire violations, he said that according to the agreement reached between the two sides, sporadic shootings would not be considered as ceasefire violation.

Meanwhile in Moscow, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze lauded Iran's efforts for the establishment of peace in the Karabakh region. The Russian official made the remark in a meeting with Iran's ambassador here Nematollah Izadi Wednesday [25 March] night. The two sides also discussed other matters of mutual interest including bilateral ties.

[Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian at 0930 GMT on 26 March gives the following report on the talks in Moscow: "Georgiy Kunadze, the Russian deputy foreign minister, thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for her efforts to establish peace in Karabakh. He called for the continuation of our country's mediatory efforts in the region. At a meeting last night between the Russian deputy foreign minister and the Iranian ambassador in that country, the expansion of ties between the two countries and international issues were discussed."]

Parliament Adopts Measures To End Conflict

LD2503200192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1800 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Video report from Baku by correspondent M. Mamedov—from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] An extraordinary session of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet continued in Baku today.

[M. Mamedov] After a debate lasting several hours, the parliamentarians adopted a decision of the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet on the situation in the mountainous part of Karabakh and the sociopolitical situation in the republic. Extraordinary measures for the earliest end to the war in Karabakh and along the border between Azerbaijan and Armenia were worked out.

[Y. Mamedov, president of Azerbaijan] Indeed, we adopted a very important document today, a document which, I believe, will help toward a settlement of the Karabakh conflict. If you look at the first item, especially, we showed the unchanging nature of the Azerbaijani leadership's course on a political settlement of this conflict. We once again state that we are in favor of talks, we are prepared to take part in them and to bring in international organizations, the United Nations and other organizations which, with good intentions, really wish to help toward a settlement of this conflict by political means.

At the same time, however, both today's and yesterday's discussions in parliament showed that—and I state this firmly once again—whatever difficulties and problems we may face, we never will allow or give up to anyone a single centimeter of our land.

[M. Mamedov] The parliament of the republic described as an act of genocide against the Azerbaijani people the brutal murder of the peaceful population of the town of Khodzhaly. An investigatory group from among the deputies has been set up to find out the circumstances of the Khodzhaly tragedy.

The session continues its work.

Minister Says 7th Army Supporting Armenians

LD2603013792 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2330 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] INTERFAX reports that Azerbaijan Defense Minister Rakhim Kaziyev and Azerbaijan Internal Affairs Minister Takhir Aliyev suggested that discipline in the Republic, especially in the economy, be tightened up. They also suggested that a special regime be introduced at enterprises that are part of the military-industrial complex.

Speaking in Baku at the extraordinary session of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, both ministers also spoke in favor of the reregistration of weapons possessed by the population and the prohibition of carrying weapons in rayons which do not lie in the zone of conflict.

Kaziyev accused the servicemen of the CIS 7th Army stationed in Armenia of backing Armenian armed formations. According to the defense minister, the servicemen are providing them with combat equipment and weapons, and sometimes even take part in attacks on Azerbajani settlements.

Mamedov on Solutions to Nagorno-Karabakh 'War'

AU2603135292 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 26 Mar 92 p 2

[Interview with Azerbaijani President Yakub Mamedov by Sergey Mitin of IMA Press, Moscow, and Michele Mezza of RAI, Rome, in Baku; date not given: "Russia Wants To Punish Us"]

[Text] [Reporter] How will the Karabakh crisis develop in the very near future? How does Azerbaijan intend to mobilize the Army?

[Mamedov] Azerbaijan has not ordered a general mobilization and is not about to do so. We have not founded our own national army, even though we could do so at any time. We are currently putting our stakes on political solutions. We welcome every peace mission. We have achieved a cease-fire for a certain period of time. With a few exceptions, it has been observed. We have started a political dialogue with the Armenian leadership, with the Nagorno-Karabakh leadership, and with other political figures.

Armenia founded a national army a long time ago. This army has well-trained forces and is equipped with modern technology. If we are unable to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict politically, we have no alternative but to protect our citizens and our territory.

[Reporter] What diplomatic initiatives could be taken to settle the conflict?

[Mamedov] First, we suggest a long-term cease-fire. Then the hostages should be exchanged. Conditions must be created to allow the Azerbaijani refugees to return to their villages. For our part, we will guarantee the security of the Armenians who live there. To monitor the observance of agreements reached, observers from various countries or international organizations could be invited. The Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh do not want this war. It was imposed on them from outside—by nationalist Armenians who live in Armenia or abroad.

[Reporter] You accused Russia of having an interest in the weakening of Azerbaijan and the strengthening of Armenia.

[Mamedov] We hoped for Russia's objective neutral position. But leading personalities of the Russian Federation have quite openly supported the Armenian separatists, and they have also helped them militarily. So far, 50,000 Azerbaijanis have fled Nagorno-Karabakh; they were driven out of the country with the help of the CIS Army. This has something to do with the fact that many of Gorbachev's—and now Yeltsin's—close advisers are Armenians. Unlike the Armenian parliament, our parliament has not ratified the treaty on membership within the CIS. Russia wants to punish us for this. This is a war waged by Armenia against peaceful Azerbaijan.

[Reporter] Would you agree to the deployment of CIS forces in the conflict zone?

[Mamedov] We do not want to have CIS troops in Nagorno-Karabakh.

[Reporter] How about UN troops?

[Mamedov] It depends on the countries they come from. If they are countries with a strong Armenian influence, we do not agree.

[Reporter] Could you name a specific European country that has helped step up armament of the Armenian Army?

[Mamedov] I have specific information, but do not wish to talk about it. Among the Arab countries, Syria and Lebanon are involved—and mercenaries.

Problem 'Can Be Resolved'

NC2603112092 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1800 GMT 25 Mar 92

["Exclusive" interview with Yakub Mamedov, chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, by Baku Radio correspondent Seyyad Aghdabaly during the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet extraordinary session in Baku on 25 March—live or recorded]

[Text] [Aghdabaly] Mr. Mamedov, the session is debating the situation in the mountainous region in Karabakh. Leaders in Azerbaijan have been criticized by the people and the opposition. When can an agreement be reached on the matter through your determined stand?

[Mamedov] I have promised the parliament and the people through the television network. We have been confronted with pressure and opposition. Yes, there have been pressure and opposition. Are you aware of all this? The Karabakh problem has deepened and become more complex. Nevertheless, I can say that the problem can be resolved tomorrow. This is possible.

[Aghdabaly] Would you agree to a mediation effort by Russia?

[Mamedov] I would agree to a mediation effort not only by Russia, but by all countries and organizations which maintain goodwill.

[Aghdabaly] Do you prefer a political or a military solution to the problem?

[Mamedov] First, I prefer a negotiated settlement. I will try to channel all my effort and resources to find a peaceful settlement to the Karabakh problem and the dispute between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

More Cease-Fire Violations Reported 25 Mar

LD2503213992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] According to the Azerbaijani Internal Affairs Ministry press center, throughout the morning of March 25 the villages in Kazakhskiy, Lachinskiy, and Zangelanskiy rayons, which border on Armenia, were under intensive heavy artillery fire. Villages in Fizulinskiy and Geranboyskiy rayons, in the Karabakh zone, were also fired upon. The Kazakhskiy rayon department of the interior reports that late in the evening of March 24 a passenger bus was hit by mortar fire. There were four deaths. The Agdamskiy rayon department of the interior reports that the villages of Yelabyy, Abdal, and Shelli came under fire from Alazan rockets and also from armored cars. Major damage has been reported and also civilian casualties. Although the situation in Shusha is

relatively calm, that is the town is not under rocket or artillery fire, the Lachin-Shusha road, linking the last island within Nagorno-Karabakh with the rest of Azerbaijan, continues to be shelled from Armenian villages. For example, on the morning of March 25 an Azerbaijani oil tanker was hit, seriously injuring the driver. It was fired upon from the Armenian village of (?Tashalta). Early in the morning of March 25, villages in Geranboyskiy, Fizulinskiy, and Kazakhskiy rayons were shelled. From rayons bordering on Armenia, continuing concentrations of Armenian forces are reported in the Gorisskiy and Izhdevanskiy rayons of Armenia. Incidentally, the Azerbaijanis are denying media reports that Khankendy—formerly Stepanakert—has been under rocket fire from the direction of Shusha. On the whole, the situation in the Nagorno part of Karabakh, according to news roundups, is relatively calm. However, the republic's Defense Ministry and National Security Ministry report an increase in reconnaissance flights recently by military helicopters over the towns of Mingechaur, Terter, Zangelan, and Agdam.

Russian TV Report Denied

NC2503205592 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1800 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Our correspondent Nadir Abdullayev has reported from Shusha that, although the Shusha-Lachin highway and several parts of the city have been fired on occasionally, the situation in the city was generally peaceful last night.

The Russian television network has reported that Khankendy [Stepanakert] was attacked with rockets from the direction of Shusha yesterday and that 25 crystal-type rockets fell on the city. This report is completely without foundation. Not a single rocket has been fired from Shusha toward Khankendy during the past few days. The Russian television report can only be regarded as an instigation.

We have been informed from Kubatly that the armed Armenians fired intensely on the [two names indistinct] towns last night, causing damage, but no casualties.

Meanwhile, Dzhebrailskiy Rayon Internal Affairs Department militia personnel have reported that the situation in the rayon has been relatively calm yesterday and today.

Militia First Lieutenant Rakhman Gasanov, duty officer at the Fizulinskiy Rayon Internal Affairs Department, has informed our editorial office by telephone that the Armenian military units fired on Dzhemilli and Divanallar towns in Fizulinskiy Rayon with BMP and [word indistinct] tracked vehicles and heavy machine guns from the direction of the Kl dzhavendskiy Rayon on the night of 24-25 March. Crystal-type rockets were fired on Fizuli city at 1000 this morning, causing in damage. No definite information has yet been received on the number killed.

B. Allakhberdiyev, head of the Karabakh Rayon Internal Affairs Department, informed our editorial office by telephone this afternoon that the situation in his region is peaceful at present.

The Sogukly farming settlement and [name indistinct] town in Kelbadzharskiy Rayon were under intense fire from the direction of Armenia's (Mardanet) Rayon as of 1800 last night. There were no casualties or damage. Major Nizami Karachev, duty officer at the Kelbadzharskiy Rayon Internal Affairs Department, has reported that Armenian helicopters took off from (Mardanet) Rayon and flew over Kelbadzhar several times on 25 March, then returned to their bases.

Terterskiy Rayon experienced artillery fire from 2200 last night until 0600 this morning. Thanks to the effort by the self-defense units, the enemy was silenced. Alasker Aliyev, head of the Terterskiy Rayon Internal Affairs Department, has informed our correspondent by telephone that the Armenians are building up positions at a point close to Chagly town. The enemy is frequently firing on the rayon from this point. Aliyev said that all the defensive forces are being massed to give a just reply to the enemy. All of them have been brought under the same command.

The Azerbaijan Ministry of Internal Affairs press center has disclosed that [name indistinct] and Agdam towns in Tauzskiy Rayon were fired on from the direction of Shamshadinskiy Rayon in Armenia. Self-defense forces members Mamedov and Yusupov were killed while trying to repulse the enemy attacks. Khidayat Askerov was wounded.

Parliament Sets Date for Presidential Election

OW2603131592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1130 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Azeri parliament's extraordinary session which ended in Baku in the evening March 25 resolved to hold presidential elections on June 7.

This decision was voted against by representatives of the Independent Azerbaijan opposition faction, who demanded that power be passed to the National Council in all its entirety.

Under the pressure of the opposition, mostly the Popular Front of Azerbaijan, former president Ayaz Mutalibov had to resign at the beginning of March.

After the discussion of the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh, the parliament passed a resolution which describes the Armenian formations' combat operations under the cover of the Russian military-political leadership as aggression against Azerbaijan, while the events in Khodzhaly, where, according to Azeri sources, more than 1000 people died, as an act of genocide against Azeris in Karabakh.

The parliament instructed the ministries for national security and internal affairs to take resolute measures to curb the illegal armed formations in the republic.

It also adopted laws on the institution of the title of National Hero of Azerbaijan and on amending Article 112 of the Constitution. According to the amendment, the chairman of the Supreme Majles of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic will resume his duties of Deputy-Head of the Azeri parliament. This provision was excluded from Article 112 last year. In experts' estimate, last year's measure was personally directed against the leader of Nakhichevan Geydar Aliyev.

The questions of the powers of the National Council (smaller parliament) and of a new government which were expected to be raised at the extraordinary session will be discussed at the next session to be held within the next few days.

Georgia

Government, Gamsakhurdia Supporters Talk

AU2603103092 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0300 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] A meeting was held yesterday in the town of Senaki between representatives of Zugdidi and the Georgian State Council and Government. Those participating in the meeting were Kukuri Rogava, David Chachua, Givi Kventaliani, Senaki Board Chairman Shalva Gegelia, and Temur Gergaia, and from Zugdidi Vakhtang Kobalia, Grisha Kobalia, and Merab Rapava.

At the meeting, they discussed the progress of the agreement adopted at the negotiations and planned future measures for normalizing the situation.

Afterwards, an information rally was held in Senaki.

As Givi Kventaliani, deputy internal minister, and Guram Chachua informed us, no crimes were reported in Senaki the previous day and night. The law enforcement organs are working intensively to combat crime.

Gamsakhurdia Backers Disrupt Writers' Congress

AU2603093892 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0300 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Excerpt] The 11th congress of Georgian writers opened yesterday in the Chess House in Tbilisi.

Before it began, supporters of the ex-president gathered outside the building and ripped up books by Georgian writers.

The writer Revaz Japaridze opened the congress and read a report. He also stated that the poet Mukhran Machavariani had been released from his position as chairman of the Georgian Writers' Union. During his report, shooting began outside and the congress interrupted its work for a short while.

The congress elected the critic Guram Gverdtseteli as chairman. Then, the writer Mukhran Machavariani asked to be given the floor. He made a short statement. He pointed out that he had been legally elected as chairman of the writers' union and would continue to remain in this post. Then, Mukhran Machavariani and 34 members of the writers' union left the congress hall. [passage omitted]

Political Situation in Poti Called 'Stable'

AU2603094292 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0300 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Badri Pochua, Poti's deputy militia chief, informed us yesterday that the political situation in the town is stable.

Short information rallies involving small numbers of people are being held but they have not resulted in any complications.

There have been no serious curfew violations. The operational situation is gradually improving. During the last two days, 20 crimes have been detected and the criminals arrested.

Transcaucasus Military on Control of Troops

LD2503162292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] The YPRINDA agency reports that the Headquarters of the Transcaucasus Military District has drawn up an official letter to the Georgian leadership on the subject of Russia assuming jurisdiction over CIS Army units. The letter sets forth a formula for putting this decision into effect and is to be handed to Georgian Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua.

State Council To Tighten Security on Railroad

OW2503194292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1622 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On March 24 the Georgian State Council once again stressed the need to ensure functioning of the railroad leading to the north through Western Georgia and Abkhazia. Railroad traffic security will be provided by the police and the national guard.

The need in tightened security of the railroad and trains is caused by actions of Zviad Gamsakhurdia supporters who have commited several terrorist acts blowing up the railroad and bridges.

The State Council has also decided to rename the Transcaucasian railroad the Georgian one.

Shevardnadze Criticizes Gamsakhurdia's Policies

LD2403151492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze has completed a three-day visit to Kakhetia. Tengiz Ablote reports.

[Ablote] As is known, this eastern part of Georgia nowadays is an enviable island of stability. The Kahketians prefer to go about their own business, and not worry their heads about who should be president of Georgia. In his meetings with the inhabitants of various regions of Kakhetia, Shevardnadze stressed repeatedly that here the situation, although far from desirable, is not particularly unstable. During the whole of the post-presidential period there have not been any strikes, acts of protest, or rallies in this region. The people of Kakhetia received Gamsakhurdia's banishment with great calmness, and as the chairman of the State Council noted, they have been virtually unaffected by the political complications which have occurred in other regions of Georgia.

During his meetings Shevardnadze, for the first time during his stay in the republic, openly criticized Zviad Gamsakhurdia's policies.

Following the completion of his visit to Kakhetia, Shevardnadze returned to Tbilisi. However, it seems clear that in the near future he will again set off for the heart of Georgia, and, as many observers believe, the chairman of the State Council could visit certain parts of western Georgia, the most unstable spot on the map of the republic.

Estonia

Ruutel, Shevardnadze Confer on Telephone

LD2603172992 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1500 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] A telephone conversation took place today between Supreme Council Chairman Arnold Ruutel and Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian State Council. This has been reported by the Supreme Council chairman's press service, via ETA. The Estonian Supreme Council stated that the Republic of Estonia has decided to recognize Georgia as an independent state. The official note to this effect will be arriving in Tbilisi in the near future. Proceeding from the statement adopted by the Baltic States Council on 16 March, on the withdrawal of the forces of the former USSR from the territories of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, Arnold Ruutel requested that soldiers and officers who are Georgian citizens deployed in the military units in the Baltic states be recalled. Issues of expanding economic cooperation were also dealt with during the telephone conversation. It was decided that in the near future it will be necessary for Arnold Ruutel and Eduard Shevardnadze to meet.

Premier Says Economic Crisis Deepening

OW2603123792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1906 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Estonian Prime Minister Tiit Vahi told parliament March 25 that in 1991 the national income of Estonia dropped by 11%, industrial production - by 9%, agricultural production - by 16%. Over the first two months this year industrial production fell by 36% against the same period last year, agricultural production - by 45.6%. Foreign investments in the Estonian economy have also dwindled compared to the previous year. In 1991 Estonia exported goods worth $3.8 billion and imported goods worth $5 billion. Vahi said 80% of goods manufactured in Estonia meet no demand even in Russia.

The premier indicated imperfect trade system, technological backwardness, low quality of goods and slow pace of economic reform as the main reasons for the deepening economic crisis.

Among measures capable of pulling the country out of the crisis the premier named foreign loans, encouragement of entrepreneurship, strict economizing of resources, property and monetary reforms. He stressed the need to accelerate the process of adopting legal acts aimed at combating speculation and anarchy in the economy.

Vahi assured that the government does not intend to impose an economic state of emergency in the country.

Jaan Manitski Proposed as New Foreign Minister

OW2603085792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1328 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] An emergency meeting of the Estonian parliamentary Commission on Foreign Affairs Tuesday [24 March] accepted the resignation of the Foreign Minister Lennart Meri. At the same time the commission supported the candidacy of Jaan Manitski for this post proposed by Prime Minister Tiit Vahi.

Jaan Manitski was born in Estonia in 1940. He received high education in Sweden, has experience in working with banking structures. Currently, Manitski lives in Belgium. He is a member of the Council of Foreign Economic Experts created at the Estonian government.

Indrek Toome, chairman of the parliamentary commission on foreign affairs, says that the Estonian foreign policy pays more and more attention to economic issues, intergovernment economic agreements, contacts with companies, etc. Toome believes Manitski is a man familiar with the mechanism of a market economy.

Congress Discusses Assembly Law, Immigrants

LD2503103592 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Report by Correspondent Tiit Sinissaar]

[Excerpts] The eighth session of the Estonian Congress took place today in Tallinn. It begun slightly after 1000 and ended just before 1900. Two major subjects remained on the agenda of the session: First, everything connected with the new draft fundamental law drawn up by the Constitutional Assembly; and the key word for the second subject was illegal immigrants—or, the illegal former USSR immigrants—in the Republic of Estonia. Of the 490 deputies with a right to vote, 274 were present today. [passage omitted]

I will perhaps begin from the tail end. The position of the Estonian Congress on former USSR immigrants in the republic was adopted, and it contains the following principles. Under no circumstances can the circle of voters be extended before elections into the Riigikogu [parliament]. Only then will the Riigikogu have the right to grant citizenship. This does not affect persons of Estonian birth, nor those who have had their Estonian citizenship restored before Riigikogu elections. Should the Supreme Council extend the circle of citizens before Riigikogu elections, the Estonian Congress resolves to organize lawful elections itself, together with its governing and other organizations.

Now we will go on to the subject discussed during the morning session and continued also during the afternoon session, that is everything connected with the draft fundamental law. [Words indistinct] a piece of paper issued by the Editorial Committee which gives the

correct text, word for word, as it was adopted by the Congress. I will read out both of them—they are quite short—in the interests of clarity.

The statement of the Estonian Congress in connection with the issue of a temporary restriction of citizen's rights of former top officials of the Communist Party, and it sounds as follows.

Estonian society can be founded solely on law, justice, and morality, which are based on a public agreement. The questions posed by the past are important to such a degree that they require a joint decision made by the people at a referendum. If Estonian citizens decide to set down temporary restrictions to the citizen's rights for former top officials of the Communist Party, they will (?condemn) the criminal essence of the Communist Party, and voice their desire to block the continuing domination of the Communist nomenklatura in Estonian public life. Should the Estonian citizens vote against such a provision it will signify an appeal to reconciliation and forgiveness and not an automatic approval of the whole activity of the Communist Party. The Estonian Congress does not appeal to Estonian citizens to vote either in favor or against in respect of this issue. The Estonian Congress appeals to all citizens only to be guided by their inner sense of justice when voting.

So this is the resolution concerning temporary restrictions on citizen's rights of former top officials of the Communist Party.

Now a resolution which may be fundamental, that is an Estonian Congress resolution on putting the new Republic of Estonia draft fundamental law, the law on its implementation to public vote, and on the elections into the Republic of Estonia Riigikogu; the resolution is as follows:

The Estonian Congress considers it necessary to put both the draft fundamental law drawn up by the Constitutional Assembly and the draft law on its implementation to public vote as soon as possible. In order to preserve the legal continuity of the Republic of Estonia it is necessary that only citizens of the Republic of Estonia by succession take part in the referendum.

The Estonian Congress appeals to all Estonian citizens to vote for the new fundamental law and the law on its implementation. The Estonian Congress considers it correct that the article concerning temporary restrictions on citizen's rights of the former top officials of the Communist Party (the so-called article 8) is presented to Estonian citizens as a separate question within the law on implementation at the referendum. The Estonian Congress considers it necessary that a referendum on the Republic of Estonia draft fundamental law is carried out on 3 May 1992 by the latest, and that elections for the Republic of Estonia Riigikogu take place on 20 June 1992 at the latest.

If the Republic of Estonia Supreme Council does not succeed in adopting a resolution by 16 April 1992 on calling a referendum on the Republic of Estonia draft fundamental law, and calling Riigikogu elections, the Estonian Congress will organize a referendum on the fundamental law, together with raising the question of stopping the Supreme Council's mandate, and will organize elections into the Riigikogu.

So, these are the resolutions adopted at the eighth session of the Estonian Congress today. In conclusion I would like to say that the Estonian Congress today took a very skeptical attitude to the future working ability of the Supreme Council; hence the number of provisions in the resolutions adopted today which lay down that, should the Supreme Council fail to stand for the interests of the Estonian people—as the Estonian Congress sees it—the Estonian Congress will be ready to take upon itself both organizing the referendum on the draft fundamental law, and the elections for a lawful Riigikogu. The eighth session of the Estonian Congress ended with these results.

Government Makes New Appointments

LD2503130892 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1500 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Summary] Ardo Kamratov, present director general of the State Property Department, has been appointed deputy economics minister. Riho (?Rasmann) has been appointed new director general of the State Property Department. Nathan Tonnisson, present director general of the Waterways Department, has been appointed first deputy transport and communications minister.

Russians Demand Guarantee of Ethnic Rights

LD2503100492 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] A rally took place in Tallinn today and in Narva a trade union conference.

[Unidentified correspondent] The address to the Supreme Council and the government from the rally which took place near Linnahall demands that minorities' ethnic, linguistic, cultural, and religious rights should be guaranteed in cooperation agreements with Russia regulating citizenship. Strict state control is demanded over prices and salaries. The rally was organized by the Supreme Council deputy group for cooperation and equal rights, and 3,000 to 4,000 people took part in it.

The resolution comprises five points and demands that all layers in society should be guaranteed foodstuffs and basic consumer goods at affordable prices. The situation in Estonia is termed an economic and political crisis, with a third of the population transformed into aliens and stateless persons. Vladimir Lebedev [member of the Supreme Council Presidium], Lembit Annus [former

first secretary of the Communist Party of Estonia Central Committee on the CPSU platform and Supreme Council deputy], and others spoke at the rally. One could hear shouts of Gorbachev to trial—to be shot, and Yeltsin to be dismissed, from among the crowd. The rally lasted for about 40 minutes.

A town-wide trade union conference took place today in Narva. Three documents were adopted: an address to the Estonian people; an address to Narva town council; and a copious main document of the conference which presents the demands of the conference participants. Living conditions fit for man, restoration of economic links with CIS states, and an end to the nomenklatura-based privitization are demanded from the government and the Supreme Council. A whole string of demands are political in nature. The Supreme Council must amend the law on implementation of the citizenship law by 15 April, so that everybody who has lived in Estonia for at least three years will be eligible for Estonian citizenship on request. Belov and Krylov, leaders of workers' squads, must be immediately released from detention. The Estonian armed forces must not be stationed in northeast Estonia. The conference participants address trade unions in Kohtla-Jarve and Sillamae with a proposal to organize a regional trade union conference before 15 April. If the demands of the conference are not met the trade unions of Narva plan to organize acts of civil disobedience en masse, and a strike by energy workers is not ruled out either.

The conference, which took place at the Narva energy workers' cultural palace, was considerably more militant than the demands listed. A meeting of a smaller circle which took place after the rally-like conference—with the participation of Narva trade union leaders, mayor Vladimir Mizhuy, ministers Mart Rask, Laur Karu, and Arvo Kuddo—proceeded in a much calmer atmosphere, even though considerable dissent remained.

Bank Tries To Control Ruble Through Restrictions

LD2503191392 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Commercial banks are allowed to buy hard currency from the population only if they have no debts in paying out cash as pensions, salaries, and student stipends. Estonian Bank Vice President Vahur Kraft provided information to this effect at a government news conference today. According to the Estonian Bank vice president, the Social Bank and its branches, the Industrial and Construction Bank and the Rural Bank, are the biggest debtors to the population. [passage omitted]

Flour, Bread Prices To Rise 300 Percent

LD2603112592 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] The prices department reports that starting from tomorrow the price of wheat flour and semolina will increase by three times on the average, the price of pearl barley, groats, and macaroni products by up to two times, and the price of rye flour and oats will increase by half on the average. Starting from Friday [27 March] rye bread will be 10 to 20 percent dearer than now, and white and mixed breads will nearly double in price. The prices department noted that an increase in grain procurement prices and an increase in the price of fuel and energy have caused the increase.

Sugar To Become Available on Ration Cards

LD2503203592 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1300 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Summary] A quantity of Cuban sugar refined in Liepaja, Latvia, has become available in Estonia. It was bought in by the ABD joint-stock company at 26 rubles per kilogram and will be sold to the population at 50 rubles per kilogram, as decided by the prices department. The ration in Tallinn will be one kilogram per person for the period of 18 March to 30 June.

Latvia

Gorbunovs Gives Views on Citizenship

LD2503141992 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1042 GMT 25 Mar 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Riga—Latvian Supreme Council chairman: The question on the criteria for Latvian citizenship should be solved at a referendum with participation of the republic's citizens who lived at its territory before 1940 and their direct descendants. This was declared by Anatolijs Gorbunovs, Latvia's Supreme Council's chairman, on March 24 in the Latvian republican newspaper DIENA.

On March 20, in an interview for the News Agency REUTERS, Gorbunovs said the term of ten years during which non-citizens of the Latvian republic had lived at its territory, and a knowledge of Lettish is a compromise of a sort for receiving citizenship of the republic. Anatolijs Gorbunovs stresses that this would be more correct from the legal point of view, if the Sejm were elected by those who had been citizens of the Latvian republic before 1940 and their direct descendants.

Besides, earlier, Gorbunovs admitted the zero variant, envisaging that those persons who had been constantly living before May 4, 1990 (a moment of the adoption of the declaration on Latvia's independence) can be also considered citizens of the Latvian republic.

My appeal in March 1991, at the time of holding the referendum, when most non-Latvians said yes to the independence of Latvia, is confirmation of loyalty to the restored Latvian state.... Citizenship is, in fact, a basis for the state power. That means that this question can be solved only by the people itself by way of a referendum and nobody else, Anatolijs Gorbunovs said. He does not exclude a possibility of a discussion on the question of

whether all the inhabitants of the republic can take part in the referendum. However, to my mind, the opinion of the citizens of the Latvian republic should be considered separately, Gorbunovs stressed.

Unfortunately, an understanding of the fact that only citizens of the Latvian republic are the bearers of the sovereign power has arisen too late, answered Roland Rikards, deputy chief of the parliamentary faction Satversme (Constitution) of the Supreme Council of the Latvian republic. Leonid Kurdyumov, deputy chief of the faction Equality of Rights, told PF [POSTFACTUM]: First, it is necessary to determine, who will be a citizen, to adopt a law on citizenship, and to carry out naturalization. After that, no referendum should be held, and elections to the Sejm can start. The proportion between the Latvians and Russian speakers in Latvia is approximately equal.

Delegation To Meet With NATO Leadership

OW2503214592 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1511 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A Latvian delegation leaves for Brussels Wednesday [24 March] to study activities of the NATO political and military structures. In the course of the visit the delegation will meet with the NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner. The delegation includes deputy chairman of the Popular Front faction Juris Dobelis, secretary of the parliamentary commission on defense and internal affairs Mikhail Stepichev, chief of the Latvian Volunteers' Headquarters Girts Kristovskis, as well as representatives from the Latvian Defense Ministry.

As Juris Zalpeteris, consultant of the commission on defense and internal affairs, told BF [BALTFAX], the two sides are expected to discuss the possibility of preparing Latvian defense ministry specialists at NATO training centers and setting up an international institute of observers in Latvia to monitor the withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia. During the visit the two sides will also set an agenda of an North-Atlantic Assembly seminar to take place in Riga in April. They will also discuss the fate of a radar set in Skrunda. The Latvian delegation will return to Riga Sunday [29 March].

Protocol Agreed With Russia on Reciprocal Payments

LD2603105192 Riga Radio Riga Network in Russian 2100 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] A three-day meeting of trade experts from Latvia and Russia has ended with an agreement on the text of a protocol on procedure for reciprocal payments between Russia and Latvia for supplies which are being carried out on the basis of clearing during the period 1990-1992. The sides agreed that payments for goods supplied on the basis of clearing will be made according to world prices in rubles, with 35 rubles to one U.S. dollar. The experts have not yet reached agreement on the procedure for paying transport costs. It is proposed that an additional agreement on this issue should be formulated by 1 April.

Republic Not To Receive Cash From Russia

OW2503214492 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1511 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] After Moscow talks it became clear for the Latvian bank representatives that Latvia will receive no cash credits in Russia. President of the Latvian bank Einars Repse said this to deputies of the "Satversme" faction of the Latvian parliament. Repse said that Latvia is running out of cash reserves. According to him, Russia has agreed to pay cash only for sold products.

Repse noted that plans for introducing the Latvian ruble (the so-called "white money", analogues of Ukrainian coupons) have been worked out. Russia warned that if Latvia introduces its own currency, payments will be made according to clearing system. In the opinion of Repse, that means an end of any payments with Russia and other countries of "the ruble zone". "It is not ruled out that Russia will use us to intimidate other countries willing to have their own currency", he said.

Weapons Consignment From Unnamed State Arrives

PM2503161492 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Irina Litvinov report: "Latvia Buying Weaponry"]

[Text] Riga—A planeload of automatic weapons and ammunition has arrived at Riga Airport.

This cargo, the newspaper NEATKARIGA CINA reported, has arrived from "a European state." The intermediaries involved in acquiring the weapons were private Latvian organizations and firms in the unnamed state. Ranking military officials are claiming that the Kalashnikov assault rifles were not acquired from a former Soviet republic. Czechoslovakia has previously been mentioned as a supplier.

Journalists are claiming that the Defense Ministry is also buying weapons on the black market, using middlemen.

Taiwan Offers $10 Million Free of Charge

LD2603113192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Taiwan has made available free of charge $10 million to Latvia for supplying Latvian crop farmers with fuel during spring field work.

At a news conference which took place at the Latvian Foreign Ministry in this connection, (?Ting En-sang),

Taiwan's general consul in Riga, stated that the establishment of bilateral consular relations and the development of economic ties should not cloud Latvia's relations with China. He stressed that Taiwan would like to establish diplomatic relations with Latvia, but only when the appropriate conditions have been created for this.

Lithuania

Belarus Leader To Talk With Landsbergis

LD2503182992 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1600 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Stanislav Shushkevich, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus, arrives in Vilnius this afternoon at the invitation of Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Lithuanian Republic. The visit by the head of the parliament of the neighboring state coincides with the opening in Lithuania of the Days of Belarussian Culture.

During their meeting, Stanislav Shushkevich and Vytautas Landsbergis are expected to continue to discuss the further development of economic, political, cultural and other cooperation between the two states.

Belarus Claims Territory Around Vilnius

LD2503221692 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1900 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Friendly relations between Lithuania and Belarus are not just a matter of historical record. The spirit of good-neighborliness between our nations continues to this day.

However, the state commission responsible for the examination of eastern Lithuania's problems states that forces which recently have been making claims against the integrity of Lithuania's territory in Vilnius and the Vilnius region are now becoming more active.

On 11 January the newspaper ZVYAZDA carried a statement by nine scientists and cultural figures demanding that Vilnius and the Vilnius region be returned to Belarus and arguing that these territories have long belonged to Belarus.

On (?20) February the newspaper [words indistinct] carried a long [words indistinct] also claiming [words indistinct]. A map is being disseminated in Belarus, a map of the so-called Belarussian People's Republic, where Vilnius and the Vilnius region up to Kaisiadorys are marked as Belarus territory.

Information about this has been submitted by the state commission responsible for the examination of eastern Lithuania's problems to the standing commissions and factions of the Supreme Council.

Landsbergis Wants Resolution Reconsidered

OW2603124292 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1906 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] At a plenary session of the Lithuanian parliament Wednesday [25 March] Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis stated that he has no intention of signing a resolution on setting up a temporary parliamentary commission for investigating cases of arms trade in units of the former Soviet Army stationed in Lithuania.

The Lithuanian parliament approved this resolution on Tuesday [24 March]. The commission is to submit its conclusions to the parliament by April 15 of 1992. The Polish faction proposed to include in the comission its member Leonas Jankelevicius causing Landsbergis to disagree.

Landsbergis offered the parliament to reconsider the composition of the temporary commission. He said that in February last year deputy Jankelevicius was given the rank of Major of the Soviet Army' reserve by the then Soviet Defense Minister Dmitriy Yazov. As Landsbergis put it, "so far Jankelevicius has not rendered an account of his membership in the CPSU".

Deputy Foreign Minister Released From Post

LD2403232992 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1000 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] Ramutis Alfredas Grizas has been released from his post of deputy foreign minister at his request.

Landsbergis Participates in BBC Phone-In

PM2603100692 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Nikolay Lashkevich report: "Landsbergis Has Opened a Window Onto the World Radio Waves"]

[Text] Vilnius—On 22 March Vytautas Landsbergis spent an hour answering the questions of listeners to the "This Is Your World" program, organized by the BBC and Lithuanian Radio.

The radio linkup connected the Supreme Council chairman's office to a London studio of the BBC World Service, which relayed the transmission worldwide.

Radio listeners from Russia, the United States, Israel, Poland, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Britain, and other countries received brief, thoughtful responses to their questions. Incidentally, Landsbergis is the second politician from the republics of the former USSR to be invited to take take part in this program, which enjoys worldwide popularity; he was preceded in this by Gennadiy Burbulis [Russian first deputy premier]. Radio linkups have previously connected listeners with Walesa, Havel, Iliescu, and other prominent East European politicians.

Quite a lot of attention was paid during the broadcast to Lithuanian-Russian relations. Touching on the problem of Russian troops in Lithuania, Landsbergis described their present deployment in independent Lithuania as a violent act and a military threat, particularly "if events in Russia go the wrong way." In his opinion, the process of troop withdrawal has not really begun yet, as for the time being only small subunits are being withdrawn. He again, as in previous speeches, stressed the danger posed to Lithuania by the concentration of troops in neighboring Kaliningrad Oblast, which could be turned into an enormous military camp. Landsbergis returned to this sore issue for him three or four times, and his stance was tough and unambiguous: There is no place for foreign troops in an independent state.

Answering a question from an Italian radio listener about the fact that Lithuania depends on sources of raw materials in Russia, the Lithuanian leader stated that the sources could be either in Russia or anywhere else. "We want to maintain economic relations with Russia and to have balanced sources of raw materials, which should come not just from one state. On the other hand, we also manufacture unique products for Russia... So the economic dependence is mutual..."

As far as the possibility of Lithuania's joining the CIS is concerned, Landsbergis confirmed yet again his firm resolve not to join the Commonwealth.

The program did not pass without opinions on Gorbachev and Shevardnadze. In Landsbergis' opinion, the former USSR president is a "complex and contradictory political personality whose place in history will be considerable." He wished Shevardnadze success in reconciling the different political forces in Georgia, stressing the need for new free elections to the Georgian parliament supervised by UN representatives if political accord is achieved. As far as his attitude to the independence of Chechnya and Tatarstan is concerned, the Lithuanian Supreme Council chairman was very guarded in his assessments. "In some cases," he said, "I cannot imagine at all well what kind of independence a small country can have inside another country, however I do not question the right of peoples to seek... the opportunity to decide their own affairs themselves."

To those interested in his private life the Lithuanian leader reported that he now plays the piano only for friends and for pleasure. He has abandoned his beloved chess. He loves Bach, Beethoven, and, naturally, Ciurlionis. He has three children and seven grandchildren, and the happiest day for him is when he sees them all together.

Thus Vytautas Landsbergis for the first time "opened a window" onto the world radio waves.

Leaders Address Agricultural Conference

LD2403231292 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1900 GMT 21 Mar 92

[Text] The Sajudis Seimas conference—Lithuania Is What the Landowner Is—was held today at the Ministry of Internal Affairs Culture and Sports Hall in Vilnius. Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis and Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius attended the conference.

The first meeting of the conference on land reform, its improvement and [words indistinct] was addressed by Mecislovas (Treinys), chairman of the [word indistinct] Commission of the Supreme Council; Vaclovas Lape, chairman of the Farmers' Movement Presidium, Minister of Agriculture Rimvydas Survila, and farmers from Silale, Ukmerge, and (?Kaisiadoriai). [passage indistinct]

Supreme Council Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis noted that many obstacles have arisen but that the reforms are taking place anyway. Sajudis should also have its own program and this conference is the first step to assist the government and the Ministry in restructuring agriculture.

If it survives, the countryside will be reborn and Lithuania will also be reborn, concluded Vytautas Landsbergis.

The people of the Sajudis public organization must, by their authority, support the restructuring of the Soviet agricultural system which has developed over a period of 50 years, emphasized Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius. There should not be any force involved in carrying out land reform. Farmers must themselves choose the farming forms which are acceptable to them.

Officials Cited on Troops Withdrawal Talks

LD2403105892 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 22 Mar 92

[Text] Much was said again this week about the Armed Forces. The second meeting of the Lithuanian and Russian expert groups took place in Moscow on Wednesday [18 March]. Issues concerning the withdrawal of the former USSR's Armed Forces were discussed.

Unfortunately, no visible progress has been made. This is what Lithuanian parliament Deputy Chairman Ceslovas Stankevicius has to say about the withdrawal of troops:

[Begin Stankevicius recording in Russian] In my view this process is unsatisfactory. The actual withdrawal has not yet started, and what has been done was designed rather more for the press and the television and cannot be regarded as the beginning of genuine withdrawal. And by the way, one must be reminded nevertheless that there was an agreement between the Russian president and Supreme Council Chairman Landsbergis that the withdrawal would start with the capital, Vilnius. We have no information so far that such a withdrawal is being planned. The negotiation process itself is also proceeding in an unsatisfactory manner. A month and a half has passed since the first meeting of the delegations and, in spite of the fact that the meeting did take place—which can be assessed positively—yet the process itself could proceed in a more resolute manner and could have more results. [end recording]

According to Ceslovas Stankevicius, four drafts of the future agreements on the army problems have been sent to the Russians. These documents were discussed by the experts in Moscow with no results so far. It seems that they could be signed only during the official negotiations of the state delegations. When these negotiations will take place is not known. The Lithuanian diplomats were ready to meet with their Russian counterparts this week but the Russian side did not show similar readiness.

Stankevicius hopes that negotiations can be held next week. However, so far no one is able to name a specific date.

What is impeding the Russian side in making the process of the withdrawal of troops from Lithuania more active? Here are Ceslovas Stankevicius' reflections on the issue:

[Begin Stankevicius recording in Russian] I find it difficult to give a precise definition. However, I think that the unwillingness to withdraw the troops is still there. Besides, what puts us on our guard is the fact that the Russian side, in spite of our requests and demands, fails to inform us, fails to inform us officially about the number of troops deployed here and suggests that there is a willingness to increase this number. Otherwise, if this number were decreasing or if there were intentions to decrease it, then these figures would be reported. At the moment,however, there is no way we can get hold of these figures. I wrote about it to Mr. Shakhray, asking him urgently to supply us with this information, not mentioning the fact that this could be seen as disrespect to the sovereignty of the Republic of Lithuania. [end recording]

Lieutenant Colonel Jonas Gecas, deputy minister of defense, expresses his solidarity with Ceslovas Stankevicius:

[Begin Gecas recording in Russian] (?According to the international agreements) these troops need not be withdrawn at all. Instead, they could be disbanded. A law has been adopted which states that all officers can buy their apartments like any other citizen of the Republic of Lithuania. And therefore the issue of social problems which has been raised—of course there are problems [words indistinct] every inhabitant of the former Soviet Union has social problems: wages, accomodation, and others—cannot be the reason for the troops not to be withdrawn. [end recording]

The bewilderment of the Lithuanian military commander can be fully understood. The artificial dragging out of the withdrawal of the troops from Lithuania looks strange against the background of the vast military reforms which the recently set up Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation promises to carry out. According to remarks by Dimitry Volkogonov, adviser to the Russian president, which were published by the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, radical reform of the Russian military forces will take two years. By this time, the number of troops and of navy personnel will be reduced by up to 1.5 million. At the beginning, the army will be formed according to a combined principle, that of professional soldiers and conscripted men. Later it will be formed entirely by contracted personnel. Needless to say, these are rather grand promises. Two days ago, President Yeltsin gave an assurance at the meeting of the CIS leaders in Kiev, that the reform of the Russian Armed Forces will be carried out with precision and unfailingly. If so, what is stopping the Russian leadership from beginning this reform right now and to start it with those army structures which are deployed in the Baltic states? If the Russian leaders think that the reduction of the Russian Armed Forces by several times is realistic, then why do they think that the withdrawal of the military units from the territories of the three small sovereign states would need not less than five years to achieve? Here is how the setting up of the Russian Ministry of Defense was commented on by Lt Col Jonas Gecas:

[Begin Gecas recording] I personally am unclear about the future. Two weeks ago I was in Brussels at the headquarters of NATO, at the headquarters of the United European Forces. I met with the leaders and commanders of the United European Forces and I heard the same thing everywhere: The situation is unstable; the future is unclear; the period is a transitional one. I can see the same thing from Vilnius, from here, that the situation is unclear. Perhaps by setting up the Russian Federation's Defense Ministry things have been moved to a certain extent in the other direction, that is, generally in the direction of individual independent states. I do not know if I can put it this way: toward the disintegration of the CIS.

Perhaps this is the beginning of this process, even more so because similar ministries were set up some time ago in Ukraine, [word indistinct] in Belarus. Therefore, the process of pulling apart is in progress. [end recording]

The delay in the withdrawal of troops serves no useful purpose either for Lithuania or Russia itself. The longer the politics are straying the [word indistinct] of the concensus, the more tense the situation is growing within the military units. After all, the servicemen could get tired of this futile talk and they could start deciding their future independently. The recent events in Kaunas can be regarded as the first sign of this. Here is Jonas Gecas again:

[Begin Gecas recording] Of course, there are certain problems [words indistinct] which are located in the south of Lithuania and in Kaunas. However, the incident which took place in Kaunas around the former Officers' Club, or as we call it in Lithuanian the Karininku Ramove, well, the military units—at least the commanders of these units—are rather loyal. They view the situation objectively and so far obey orders. However, the tension remains. And so long as the troops of a foreign state, the Russian Federation, remain deployed in the Republic of Lithuania the situation will continue to remain unstable because no one can tell what may come into someone's head and when. [end recording]

And the last point: It is not difficult to notice that the dragging out of the former Soviet Union's withdrawal has a direct influence on the political situation inside our

republic. After a long interval placards bearing insults against the servicemen have appeared again at rallies; the rightwing radicals have started saying with increasing frequency that Russia is an unreliable partner, that Yeltsin's team is continuing the imperialistic policy of the Soviet leaders. According to the Vilnius correspondent of the newspaper IZVESTIYA, one can already hear the following statments among Lithuanian radicals: If Russia does not want to solve the problem of the troops by civilized diplomatic means, then this process should be activated unilaterally. This probably has the Trans-Caucasian scenario in mind. Lithuanian parliament Deputy Chairman Ceslovas Stankevicius is sure that matters will not reach that point, God willing.

Vagnorious Asks Yeltsin To Help With Medicines

LD2603092992 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] The Government Information Bureau reports that yesterday Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius sent a telegram to Russian President Boris Yeltsin expressing his concern about a worsening situation in the supply of medicines from Russia. It is pointed out in the telegram that Lithuania supplies medicines to Russia without any limitations, that Russia's pharmaceutical enterprises are ready to supply their products to Lithuania, but Russian Government institutions and individual officials prevent them from obtaining licenses.

The Lithuanian prime minister has asked the Russian president to help in solving this problem which is vitally important to Lithuania, and to fulfill the obligations provided for by the agreements of supplying medicines and medical materials.

Russia To Keep Supplying Nuclear Fuel for Plant

LD2403133592 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 0000 GMT 23 Mar 92

[Text] Last week Russia officially confirmed that it would continue its shipments of nuclear fuel to the Ignalina nuclear power station. The Russian government stated that in return Lithuania would have to provide the Kaliningrad region with no less than 2,760,000,000 kilowatts of electricity.

Referendum Threatens 'Further Political Turmoil'

PM2503092992 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Mar 92 First Edition p 6

[Yurgis Tubinis report: "The Referendum Will Answer"]

[Text] Vilnius—So, following debates and uncertainties with the lists of Lithuanian citizens in favor of a referendum on the presidency, parliament has made a decision: The referendum will take place 23 May.

Obviously, that day will put an end to the arguments between republic supporters and opponents of the institution of the presidency, and those who view the realization of this idea in different ways. The vote in parliament was also preceded by several days of controversy. Disputes centered on which powers the president of a democratic state should possess, and even on the lists collected by "Sajudis." As we know, to declare the referendum it was necessary to collect 300,000 signatures. "Sajudis" collected almost 60,000 more. However, the lists were very muddled, and Deputy Ch. Yurshenas [as transliterated] even discovered the name of Sylvestor Stallone, the famous American movie actor, among them. Someone had decided to play a trick on the signature collectors. But now all the uncertainties are behind us. The people must have their say. It is the people who will have to pass judgement on the draft laws on the president and on amendments to the provisional Lithuanian Fundamental Law. But in fact it is not a matter of introducing the institution of the presidency, but of restoring it.

In pre-war Lithuania the president called all the shots. The 1938 Constitution gave him extensive powers. The republic's last president, stripped of authority in 1940, was Antanas Smetona, whose image enjoys tremendous popularity in certain circles. Today, "Sajudis" actively favors restoring the institution and advocates the idea of endowing current Lithuanian Supreme Council Chairman V. Landsbergis with full powers immediately. This idea is supported by a number of movements considered to be "right wing." This question was submitted to parliament by the Tautininki faction (until 1940, A. Smetona was the leader of the Lithuanian Tautininki Union) and the National Progress faction.

According to the Law on the Referendum, the ballot must be secret. Any registered social organization is entitled to conduct publicity campaigns in any area regarding the draft laws submitted for general discussion. The authorities are obliged to offer opportunities for rallies, meetings, and for expounding views in newspapers and other media sources.

It would seem that the republic, which should be tackling its highly complex economic problems at this time, is facing further political turmoil.

Direct Rule in Vilnius, Salcininkai Prolonged

LD2503160892 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2230 GMT 24 Mar 92

[Text] The Lithuanian Parliament has decided to prolong direct rule in the Vilnius and Salcininkai regions with predominantly Polish populations for another six months. The local councils in these regions had been dissolved in September of last year because of their open, pro-Kremlin, and pro-putschist stand during the August coup in Moscow. Elections to local municipalities are going to be held after the Parliament will have discussed this issue once again, that is after 12 September of this year.

Accusations of Human Rights Abuses Investigated

OW2603085992 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1328 GMT 24 Mar 92

[transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The UN Human Rights Commission has officially requested the Lithuanian mission at the UN to respond to a complaint filed by the Committee on Protection of Political Prisoners in the USSR. The Committee's President Yevgeniy Kogan claims that currently four leaders of the former Lithuanian Intermovement "Unity" V. Ivanov, V. Orlov, A. Bobilev and A. Smotkin are being interrogated in custody in Lithuania.

At the same time, the newspaper "RESPUBLIKA" referring to the Lithuanian General Prosecutor's Office argues that all the four were detained according to law without any violation of human rights. They are suspected of being involved in an armed underground terrorist organization. They are also accused of illegal arms transportation. The newspaper notes that the former Intermovement leaders are being held in custody not for political convictions, but for concrete crimes. All of them have been granted advocates' services.